三国志 ㉘

進攻玄徳軍

横山光輝

希望コミックス 87

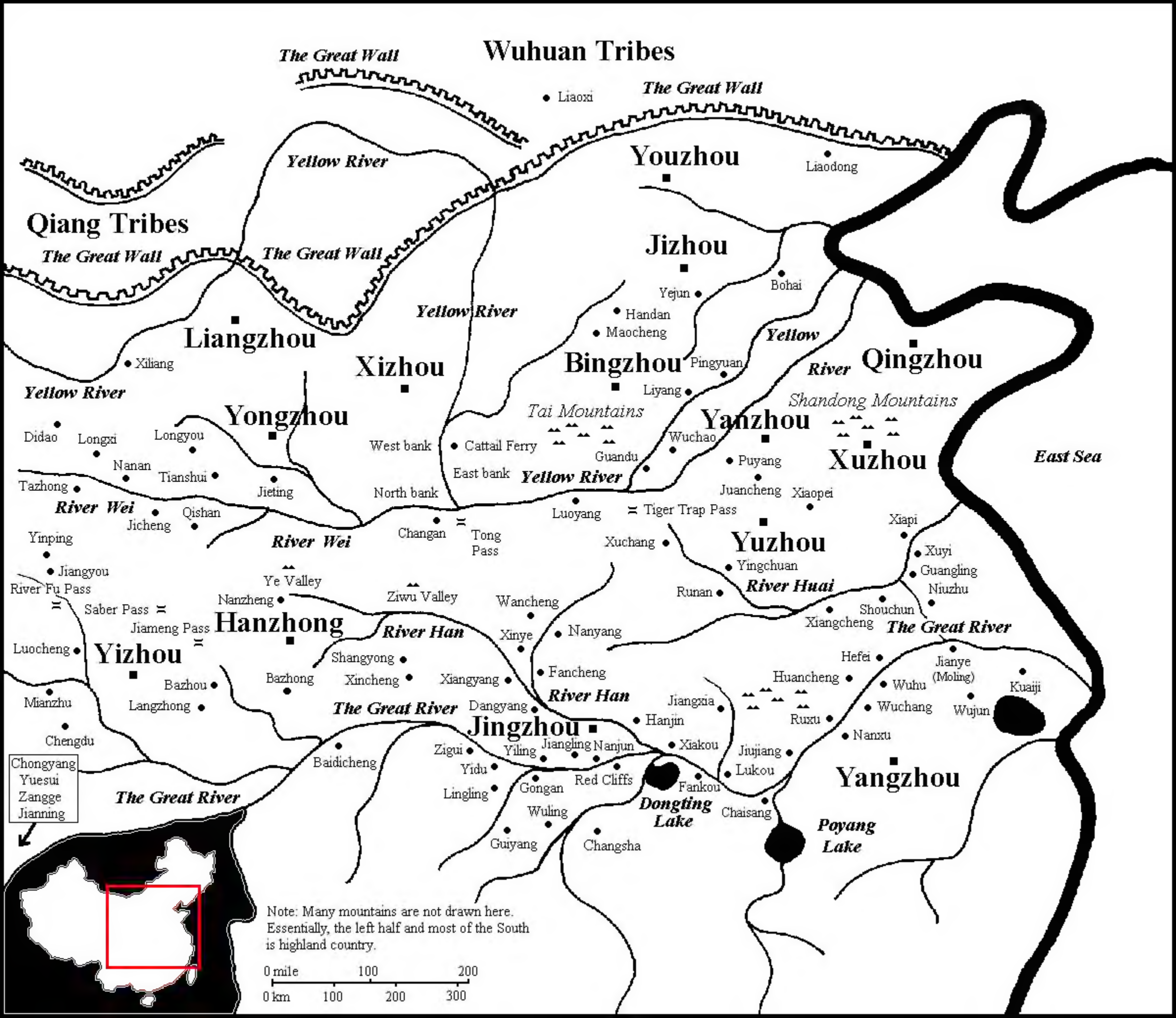
SANGOKUSHI

28

ADVANCE OF LIU BEI'S TROOPS

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

ZHAO YUN ZILONG


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS

PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE SOON BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE MIGHTY GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING AND FRIEND TO LIU BEI. HE WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKS HIM AND KILLS HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON WHO FIRST APPEARS IN VOLUME 19.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

JIA XU:
THE SHREWD STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO ZHANG XIU. HE AND ZHANG XIU PLOTS A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, BUT SUCCEEDS IN KILLING DIAN WEI. IN VOLUME 16, HE AND ZHANG XIU DEFECT TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU REBELS.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):
FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN, THOUGH CAO CAO HAS SEIZED ALL REAL POWER AWAY FROM HIM.

LU BU:
HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR WITH THE FASTEST HORSE, THE RED HARE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU SU:
MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO. UNLIKE THE ACTUAL HISTORICAL FIGURE, HE IS DEPICTED AS A HAN LOYALIST WHO SIGNS DONG CHENG'S BLOOD SEAL PLEDGE.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING, ALONG WITH ZHUGE LIANG AND XU SHU. HE CURRENTLY SERVES NO LORD BUT ASSISTS WU IN THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. IN VOLUME 19, ASSASSINS MAKE A FAILED ATTEMPT AT HIS LIFE. HIS MENTAL HEALTH SOON DETERIORATES DUE TO THE INCIDENT WITH YU JI AND HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH.

SUN JIAN:
BORN IN WU COMMANDERY, HE WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATES IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. BUT IS FINDING OF THE IMPERIAL SEAL CAUSES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIES TO EXACT HIS REVENGE ON LIU BIAO, ONLY TO BE KILLED IN BATTLE.

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, A REGION IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
SUN CE'S TRUSTED GENERAL WHO DEFECTED TO SERVE SUN CE AFTER BEING CAPTURED IN VOLUME 11.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:
AN OLD MAN WHO HOLDS THE POST OF MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHANG IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVING LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S MOST TALENTED ADVISORS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YI JI:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU BIAO WHO WARNS LIU BEI ABOUT CAI MAO'S PLOT TO ASSASSINATE LIU BEI IN VOLUME 20.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY IS DEFEATED AND KILLED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO WHO LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE LATER MEETS UP WITH LIU BEI AND FINALLY BECOMES HIS RETAINER.

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, HE IS A SKILLED ADMIRAL WHO SERVES AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FOR WU'S ARMY. CONVINCED THAT HIS ALLY KONGMING IS TOO MUCH OF A THREAT, HE CURRENTLY SCHEMES FOR HIS DEATH.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS
PART 2: OTHER MINOR CHARACTERS

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO REN:
GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO.

CAO HONG:
GENERAL AND COUSIN TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 6, HE SAVES CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH.

CAO SONG:
CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED BY TAO QIAN'S ESCORT AND FORMER YELLOW TURBAN, ZHANG KAI.

DING YUAN:
GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN, EARNING DONG ZHUO'S WRATH. IN VOLUME 4, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS FOSTER-SON, LU BU, WHO THEN DEFECTS TO SERVE DONG ZHUO.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:
MOTHER TO THE FORMER EMPEROR LING AND GRANDMOTHER TO EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 3, EMPRESS HE ORDERS FOR HER DEATH TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S THRONE AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:
ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS. HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH HIS LORD IN VOLUME 14.

GUO SI:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

HE JIN:
OLDER BROTHER OF EMPRESS HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. IN VOLUME 3, HE ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE THE TEN ATTENDANTS, ONLY TO BE DISSUADED FROM DOING SO BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

HOU CHENG:
ONE OF LU BU'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 14, HE, ALONG WITH GENERALS WEI XU AND SONG XIAN, BETRAYS LU BU AND DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

HUA XIONG:
FAMED GENERAL SERVING UNDER DONG ZHUO. IN VOLUME 5, HE DEFEATS SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT IS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU.

JI PING:
IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN OF HAN WHO, WITH DONG CHENG, PLOTS TO POISON CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 17, CAO CAO DISCOVERS THEIR PLOT AND EXECUTES HIM.

JIANG GAN:
CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF ZHOU YU AND NOW AN ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE FAILS TO PERSUADE ZHOU YU TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO, AND INADVERTANTLY HELPS ZHOU YU'S PLOT TO FRAME CAI MAO.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LADY FUYOU:
FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE MASSCRED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

LADY MI:
LIU BEI'S FIRST WIFE.

LI JUE:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND GUO SI TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LIU BIAN:
THE SON OF EMPRESS HE AND BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, EMPEROR LING. IN VOLUME 4, HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LU ZHI:
LIU BEI'S FORMER TEACHER AND THE PALACE COMMANDER WHO WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF LEADING THE HAN ARMY AGAINST THE YELLOW TURBANS. HE WAS LATER DEMOTED FOR FAILING TO BRIBE ONE OF THE IMPERIAL MESSENGERS.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO AND THE OLDER BROTHER OF LIU CONG.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

SUN QIAN:
ADVISOR/EMISSARY SERVING LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. (IN RECORDS OF THE THRE KINGDOMS, WRITTEN BY CHEN SHOU, YU JIN IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS FOR WEI.)

ZHANG BAO:
ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

ZHANG JIAO:
LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:
THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." AFTER SUN CE'S ADMANT INSISTENCE, THEY DECIDE TO SERVE HIM AND HELP HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 28
ADVANCE OF LIU BEI'S TROOPS

HUANG ZHONG'S ARROW 7
GUAN YU AND HIS 500 TROOPS 32
ZHANG FEI CAPTURES WULING 53
SISTER-IN-LAW 71
CAPTURE OF GUIYANG 102
DECEIT UPON DECEIT 144
THE MAN ON THE CHARIOT 174

TABLE OF CONTENTS

〔月刊『コミックトム』掲載〕

THE MAN ON THE CHARIOT

UGH...

MNN...

WHAT TROUBLES MY FATHER SO?

HOW COULD I NOT STAND HERE WORRIED WHEN LIU BEI'S TROOPS ARE MARCHING HERE AS WE SPEAK?

WHY DO YOU LOSE HOPE BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS EVEN BEGUN!? ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT OUR SIDE HAS XING DAORONG!?

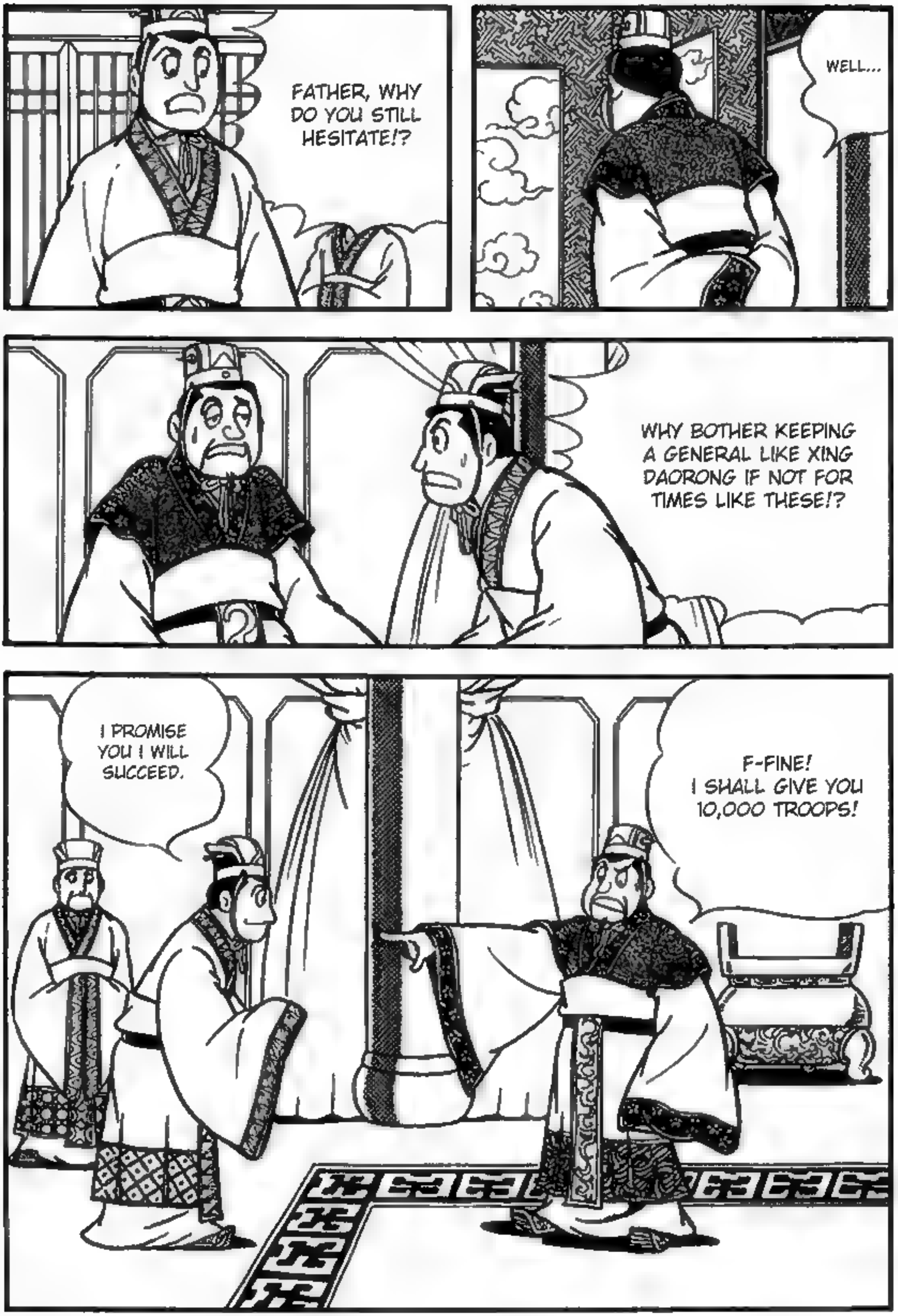
LIU BEI BOASTS MANY FAMOUS WARRIORS IN HIS ARMY, SUCH AS GUAN YU OR ZHANG FEI. HOW COULD WE EVER STAND UP TO THE LIKES OF THEM?

XING DAORONG IS A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO WIELDS THE FAMOUS BATTLE-AXE, "CLEAVER OF MOUNTAINS," WHICH WEIGHS OVER 60 CATTIES! HE CAN SURELY HANDLE EVEN GUAN YU OR ZHANG FEI.

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT XING DAORONG IS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS GUAN YU OR ZHANG FEI?

MNN...

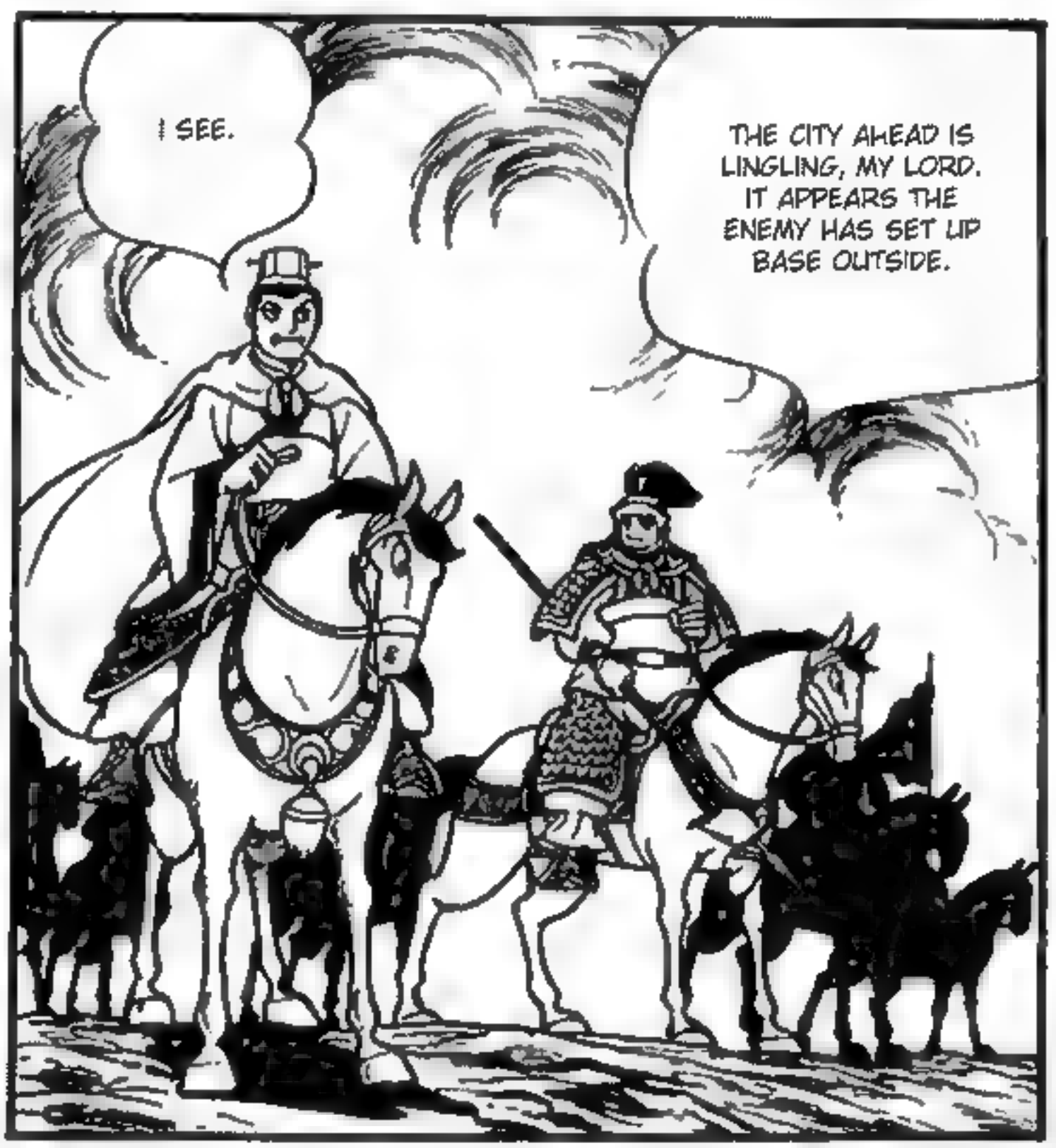
WITH XING DAORONG AT MY SIDE, I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THAT PEST LIU BEI AS LONG AS YOU GIVE ME ENOUGH SOLDIERS.

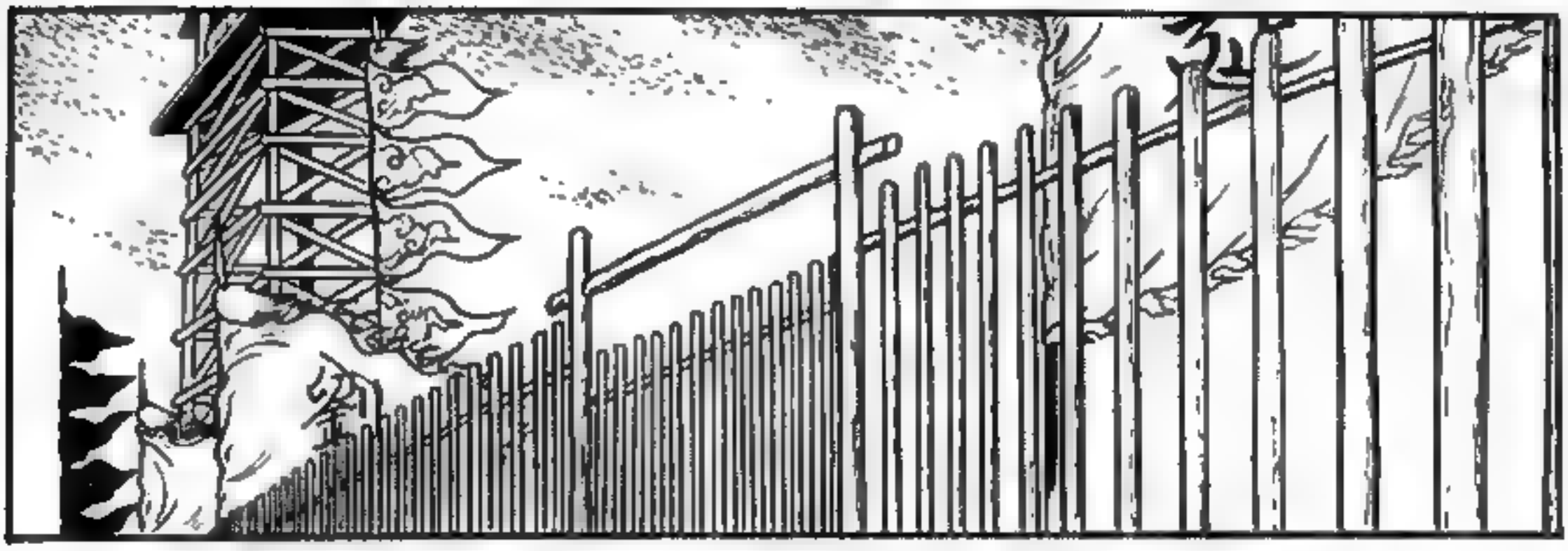

FATHER, WHY DO YOU STILL HESITATE!?
WELL...
WHY BOTHER KEEPING A GENERAL LIKE XING DAORONG IF NOT FOR TIMES LIKE THESE!?
I PROMISE YOU I WILL SUCCEED.
F-FINE! I SHALL GIVE YOU 10,000 TROOPS!

AND SO, LINGLING'S GOVERNOR, LIU DU, GRANTED 10,000 TROOPS TO HIS SON, LIU XIAN,

WHO THEN SALLIED FORTH 30 LI OUTSIDE FROM THE CITY, WHERE HE SET UP BASE.

COMMENCE ATTACK!

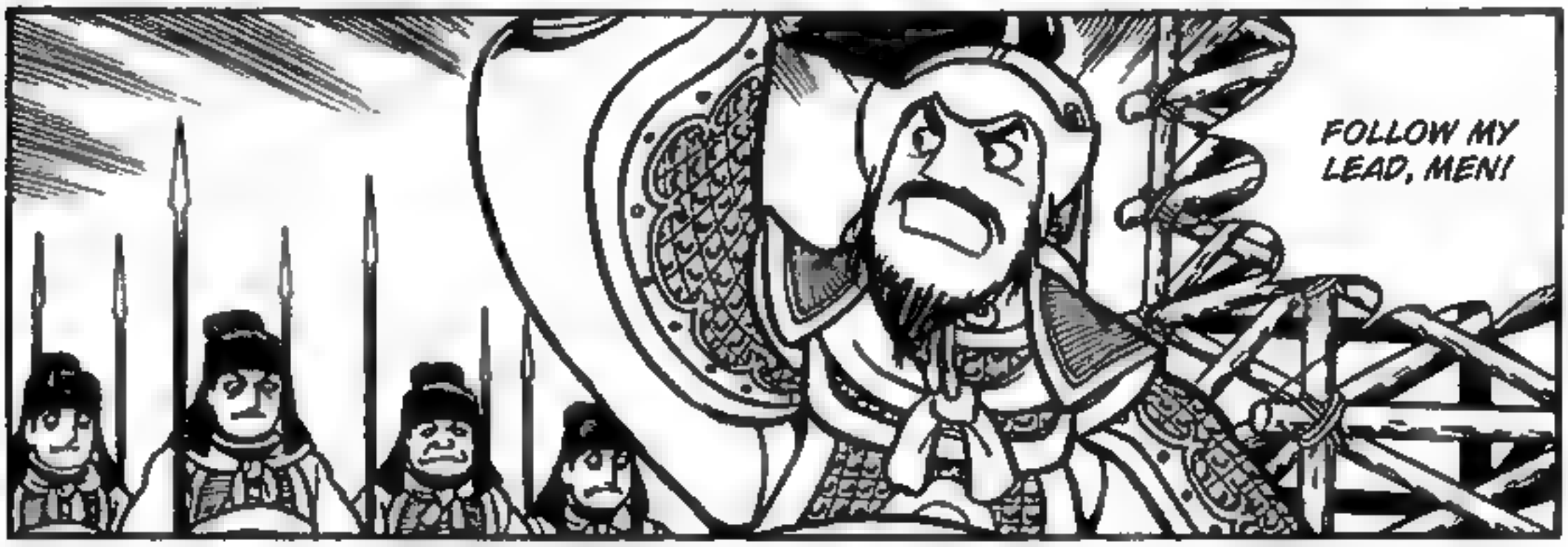

I SEE.
THE CITY AHEAD IS LINGLING, MY LORD. IT APPEARS THE ENEMY HAS SET UP BASE OUTSIDE.

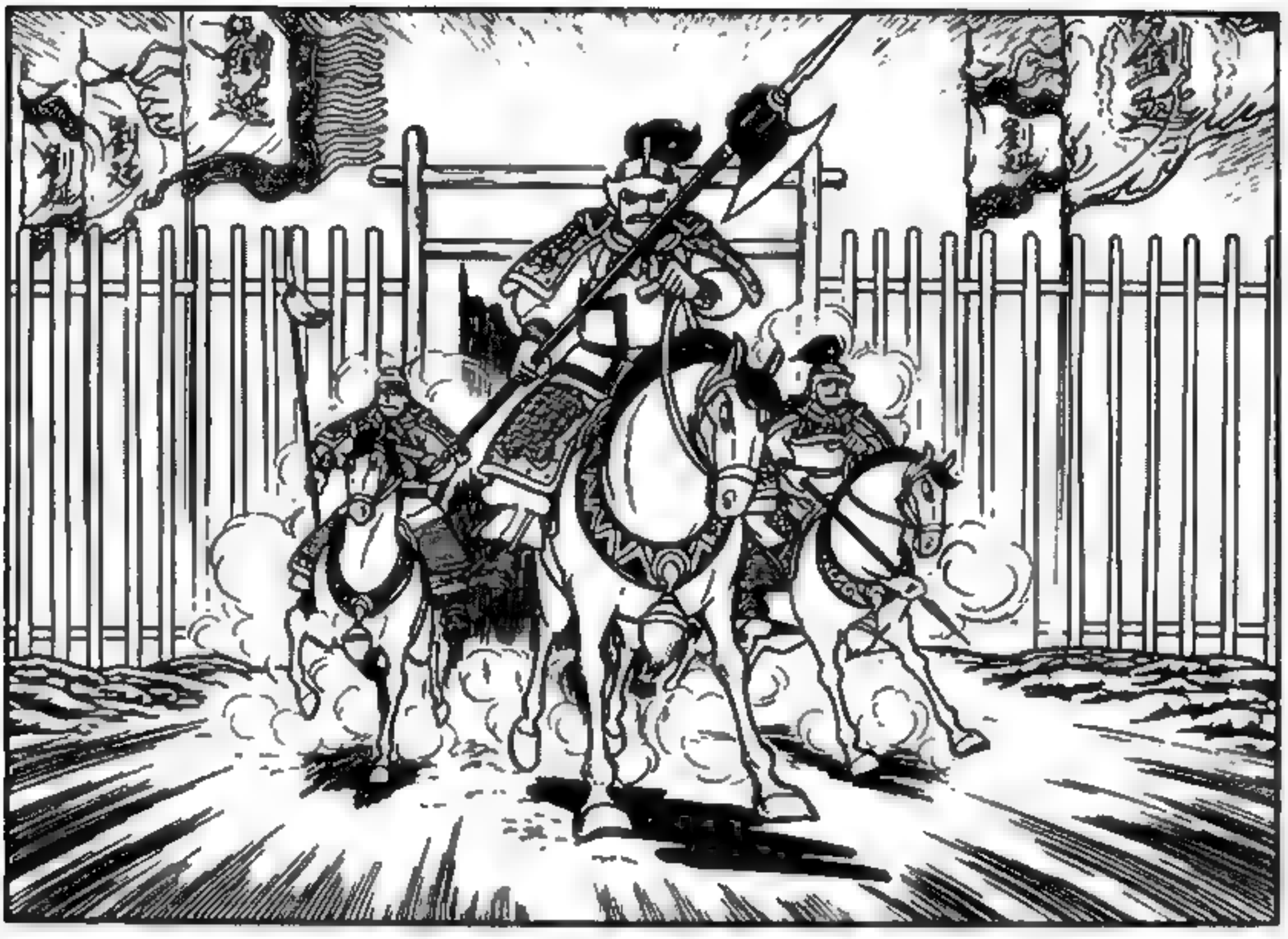


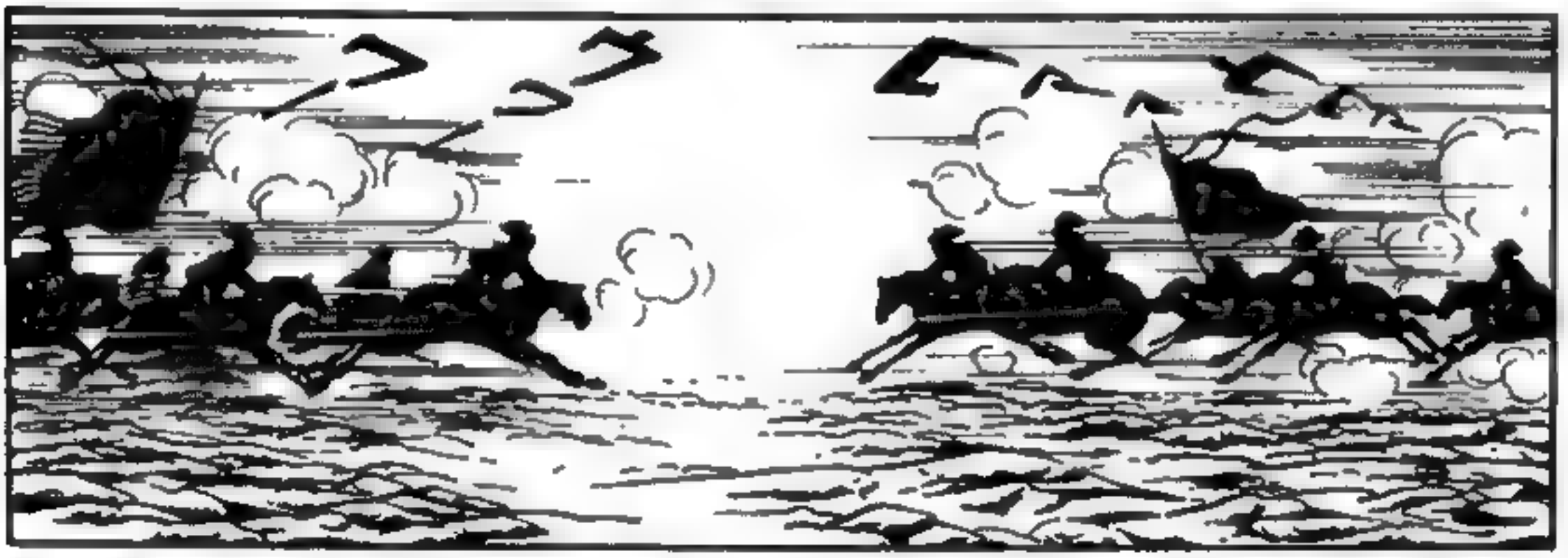
SO THEY'VE COME...

YES, SIR.
XING DAORONG, SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF.

LIU BEI'S TROOPS ARE CHARGING!


FOLLOW MY LEAD, MEN!

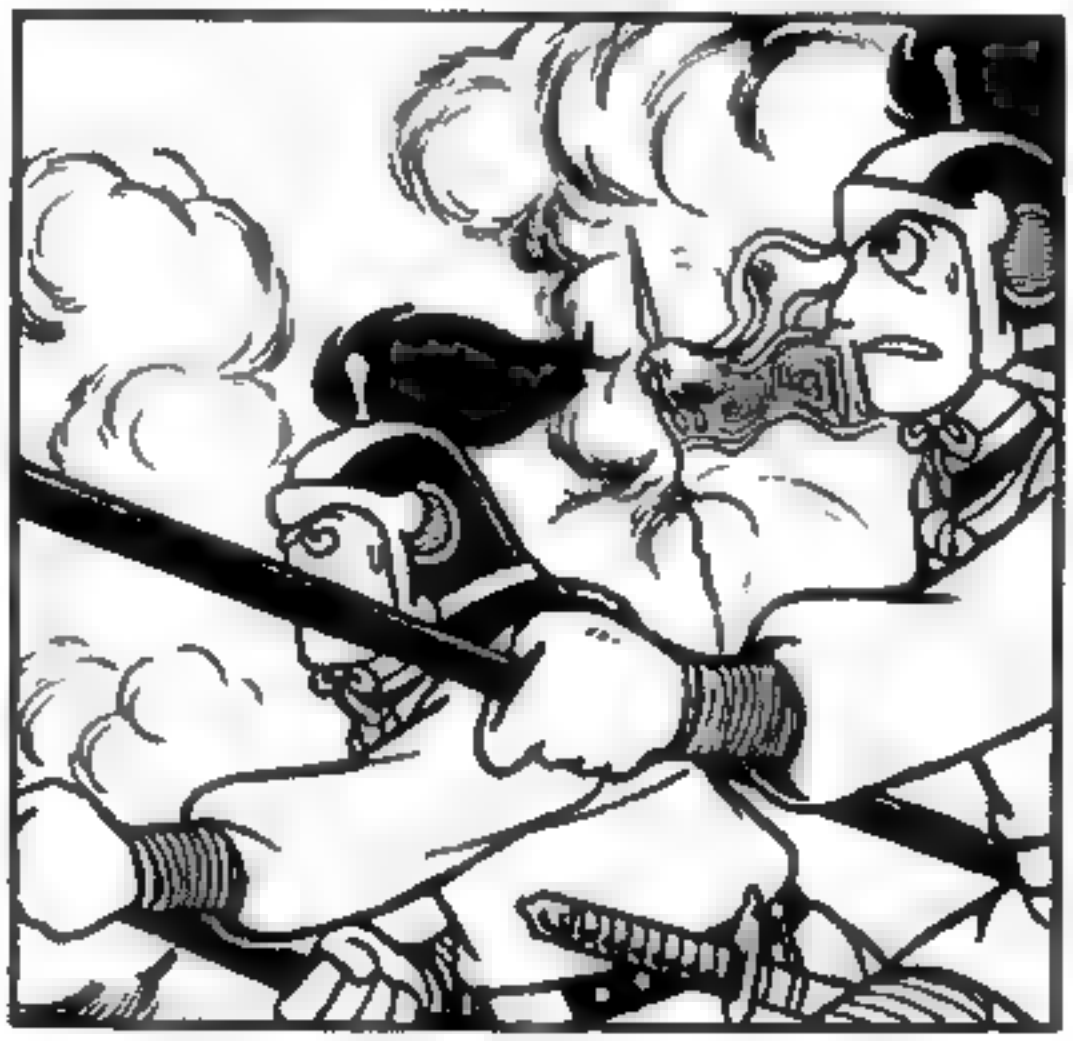


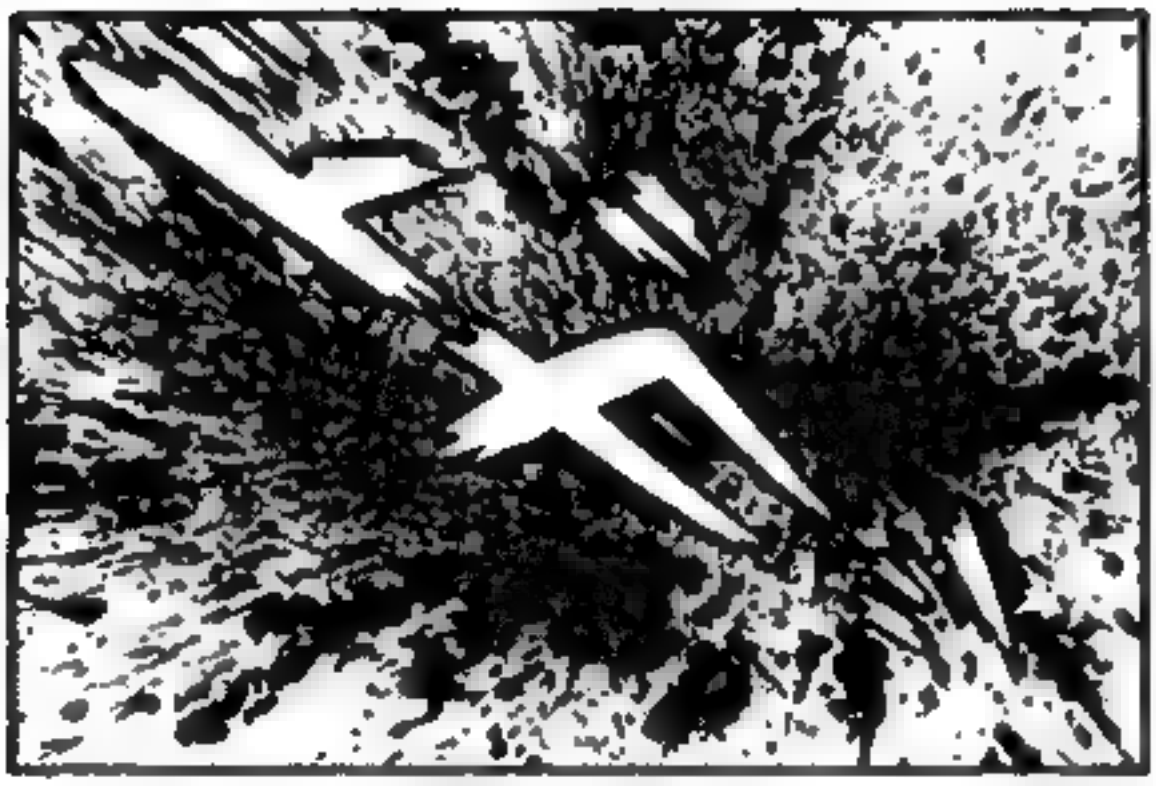


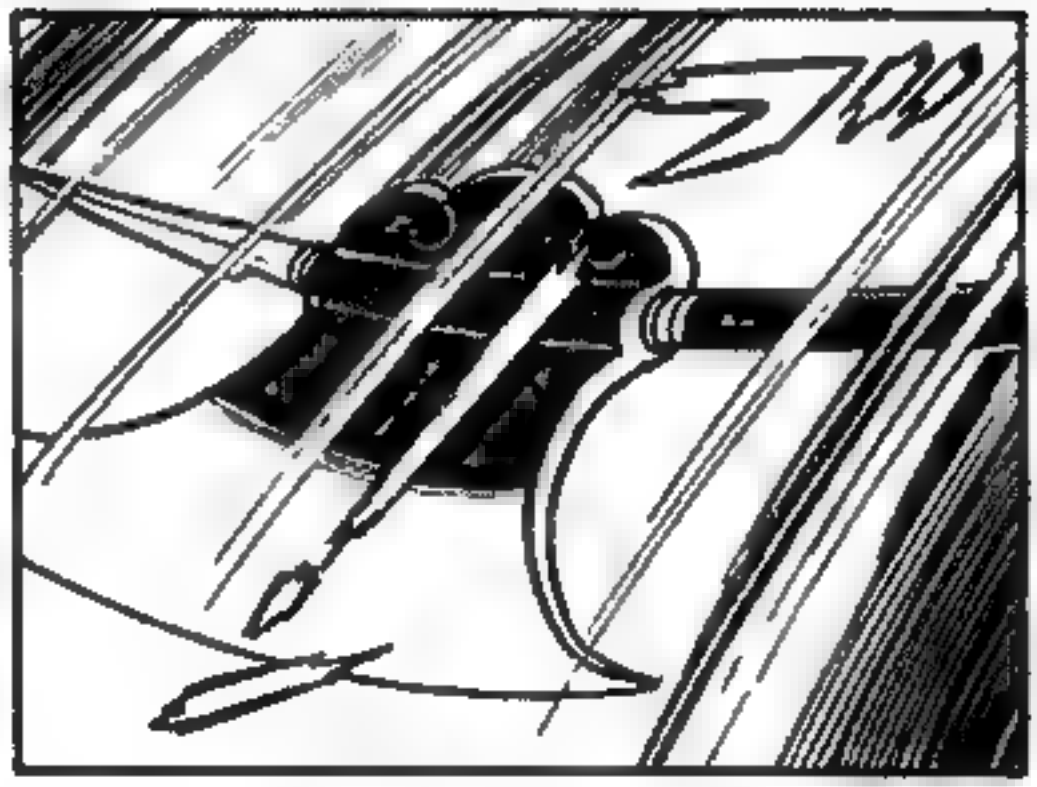
COME AT ME IF YOU HAVE NO MORE REGRETS IN THIS LIFE AND I SHALL GLADLY SEND YOU TO THE AFTERWORLD!

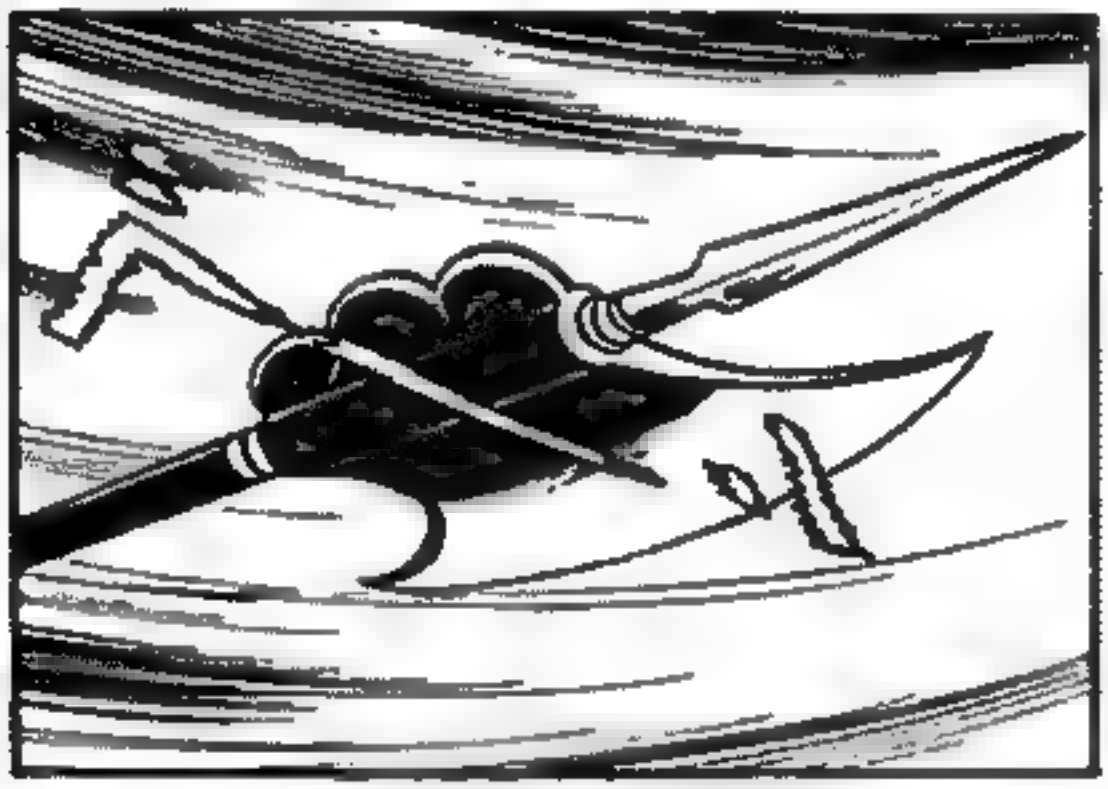
HA!
NAIVE
LITTLE
PEST!

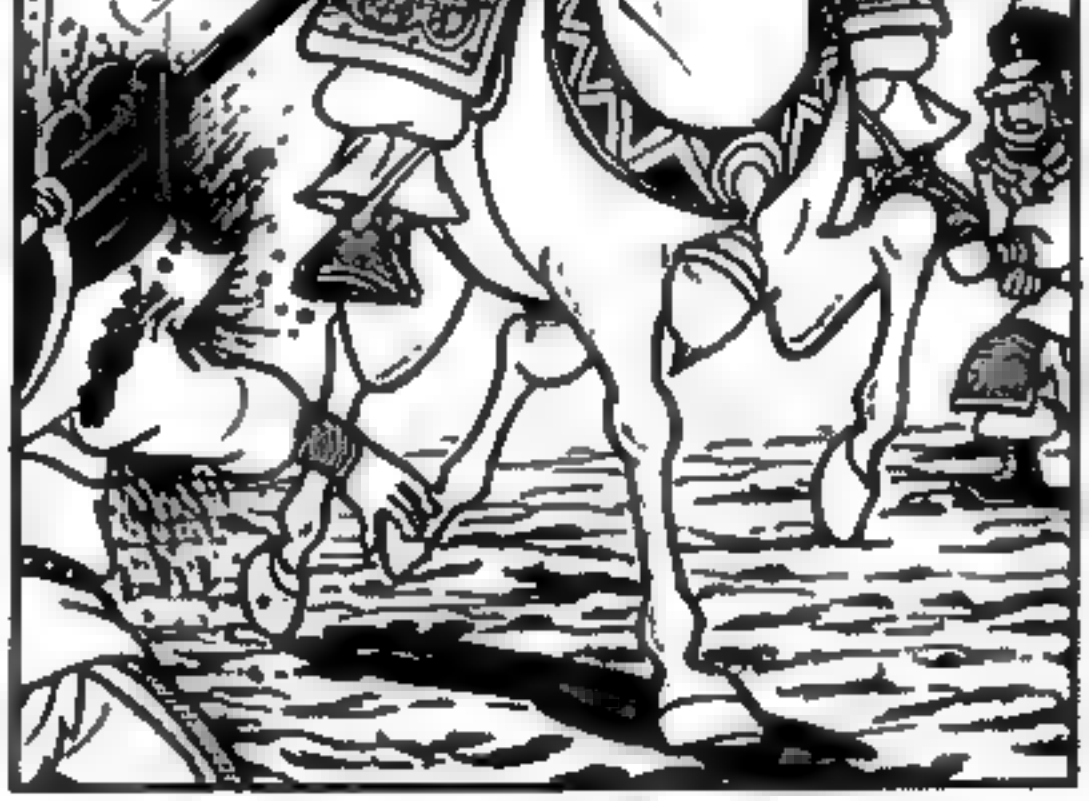
I'LL BE
YOUR
MATCH
TODAY!











HM?

ISN'T THERE ANYONE THAT CAN ACTUALLY FIGHT!?

WHAT!?

AH, YOU MUST THAT COUNTRY BUMPKIN WHO I HEAR IS PRETTY HANDY WITH AN AXE...!

HAHA, SO YOU'RE THE CRAFTY KONGMING!? TO THINK YOU'D TURN OUT TO BE SOME PAMPERED BRAGGART RIDING A DAINTY LITTLE CHARIOT ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

DO YOU REALLY THINK A LOKEL SUCH AS YOURSELF CAN HOPE TO BEAT ME? I ADVISE YOU TO PEACEFULLY SURRENDER.

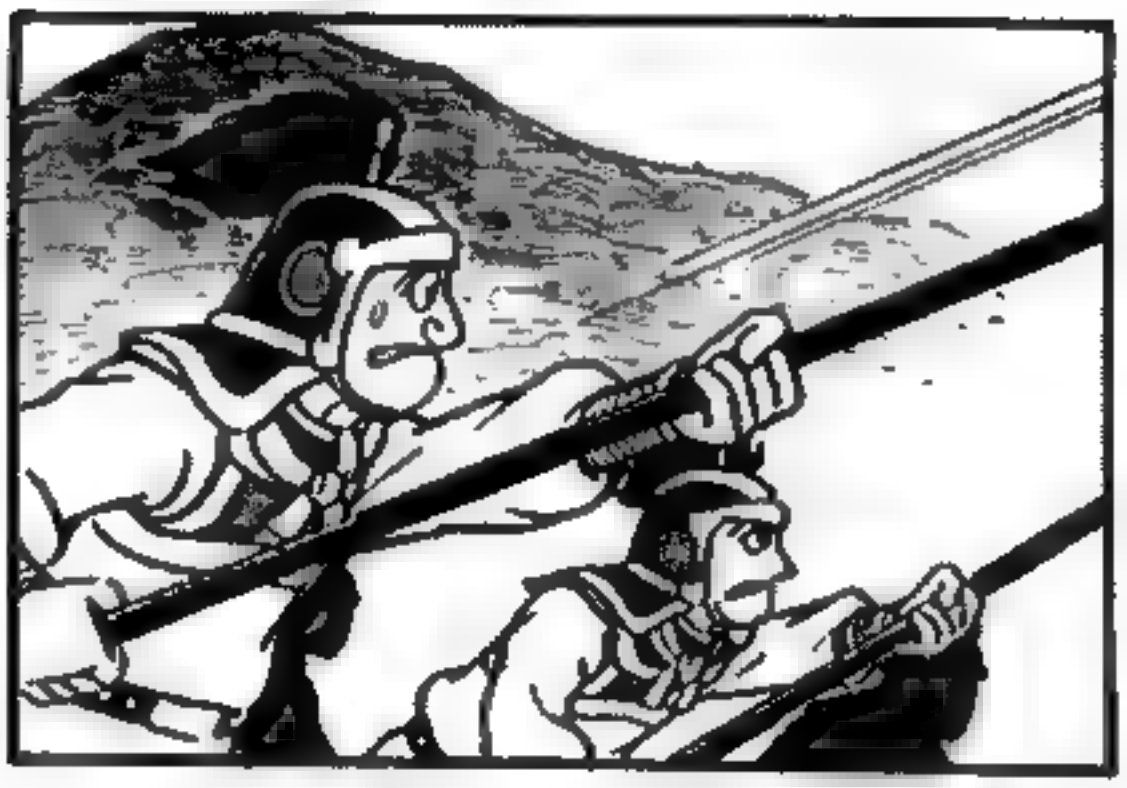
I AM ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING OF NANYANG, THE STRATEGIST WHO DECIMATED CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY WITH EASE!

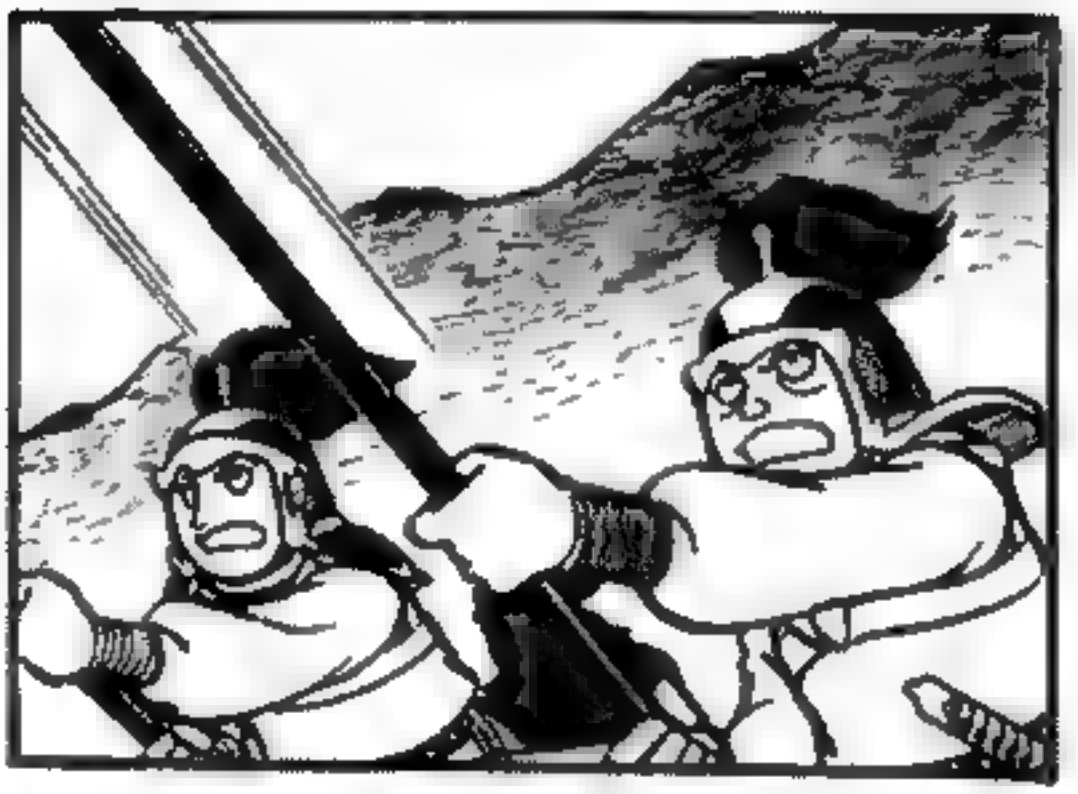
WHAT REALLY DEFEATED CAO CAO'S ARMY WAS ZHOU YU'S WITS AND WU'S SOLDIERS! YOUR BOASTS WOULD NOT EVEN INTIMIDATE A CHILD!

FALL BACK!

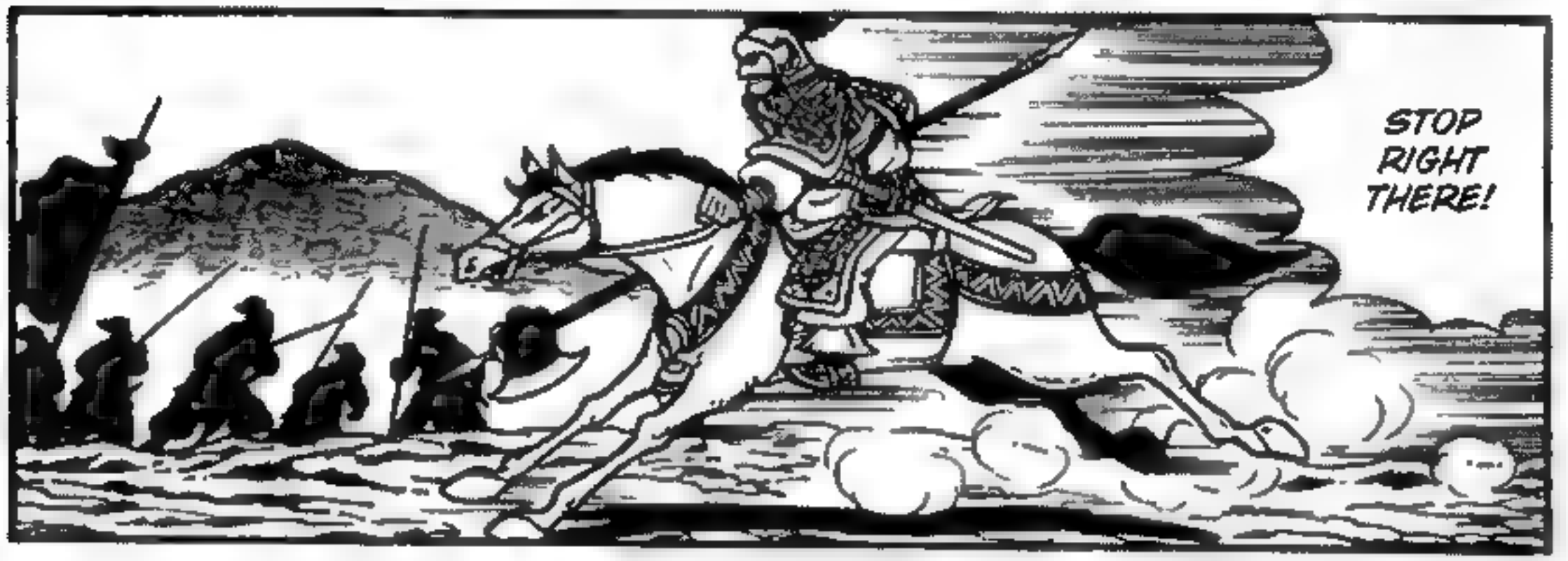
I'LL MAKE QUICK WORK OF YOU WITH MY AXE!

AS IF I'D LET YOU JUST RUN AWAY!





CLEAR THE WAY, MAGGOTS!


STOP RIGHT THERE!

YOU MUST BE XING DAORONG, THE COCKY ONE WITH AN AXE, I PRESUME? I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR YOU.

HM?

AND WHO ARE YOU!?

WHAT!

KONGMING SAID HE'D SAVE ME THE WORK OF LOOKING FOR YOU BY BRINGING YOU TO ME.

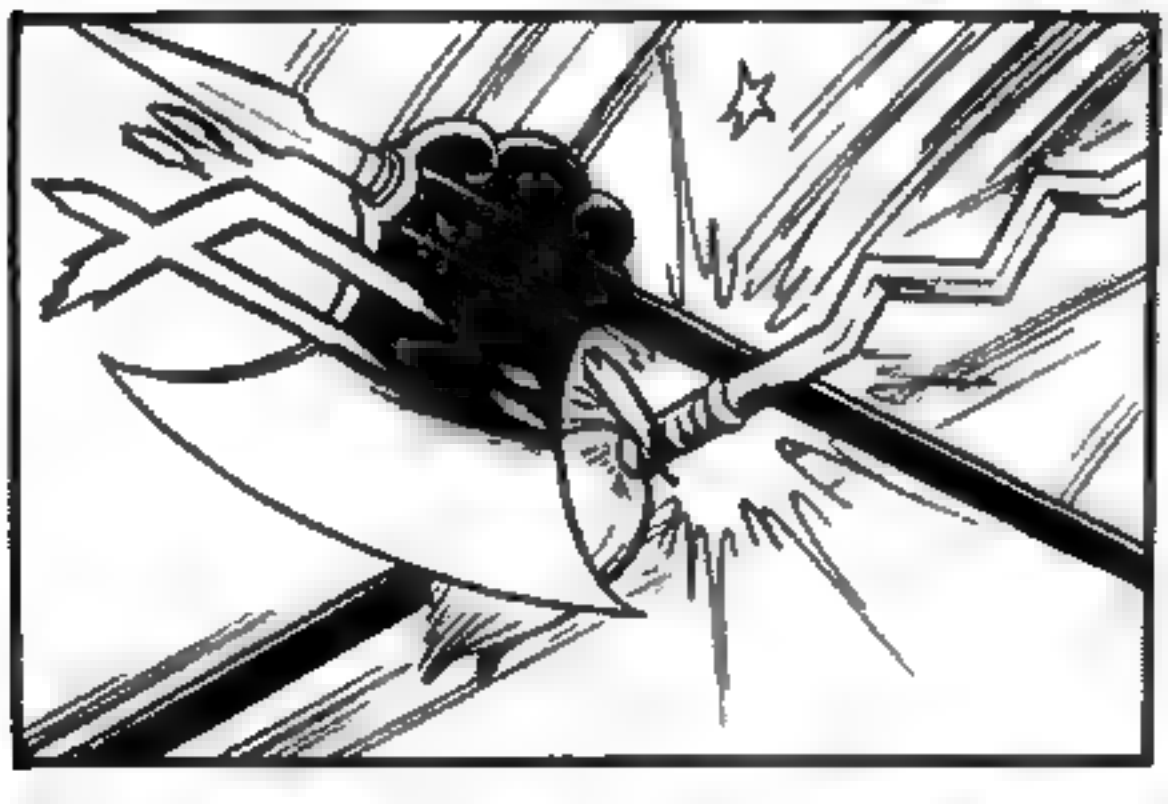
I AM ZHANG FEI. HOPEFULLY, EVEN A HICK LIKE YOU HAS HEARD OF MY NAME AT LEAST ONCE.

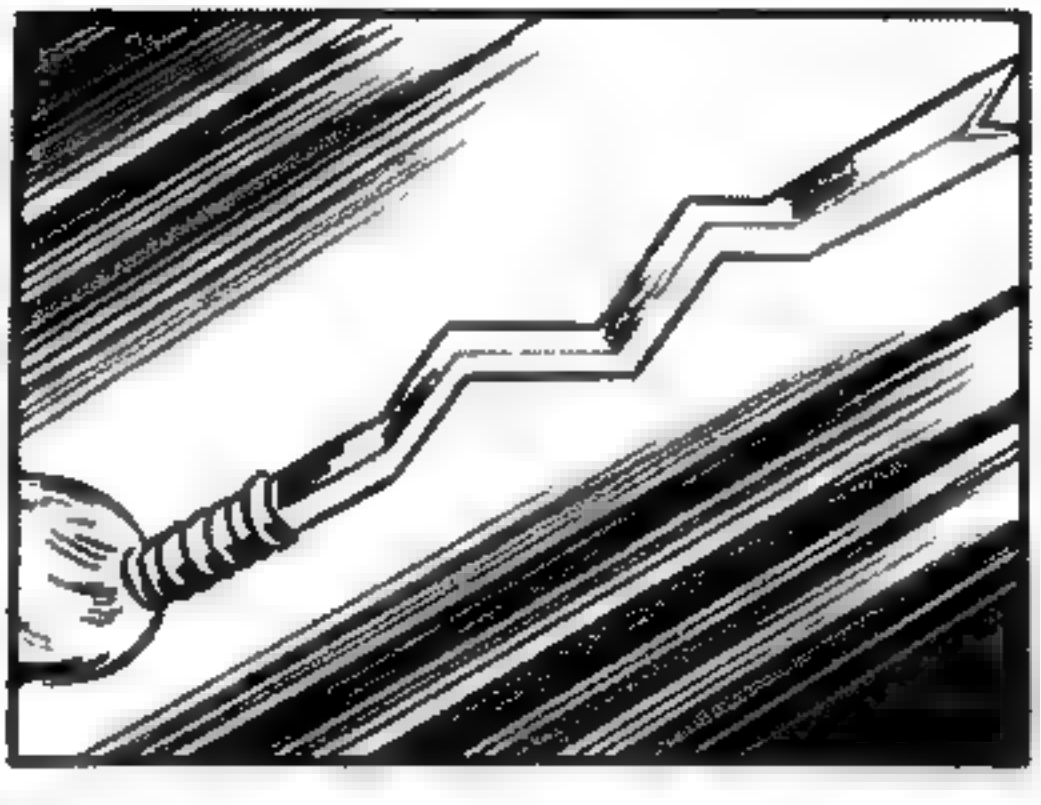
OR MY AXE WILL MAKE SURE YOU NEVER SAY ANOTHER WORD AGAIN!

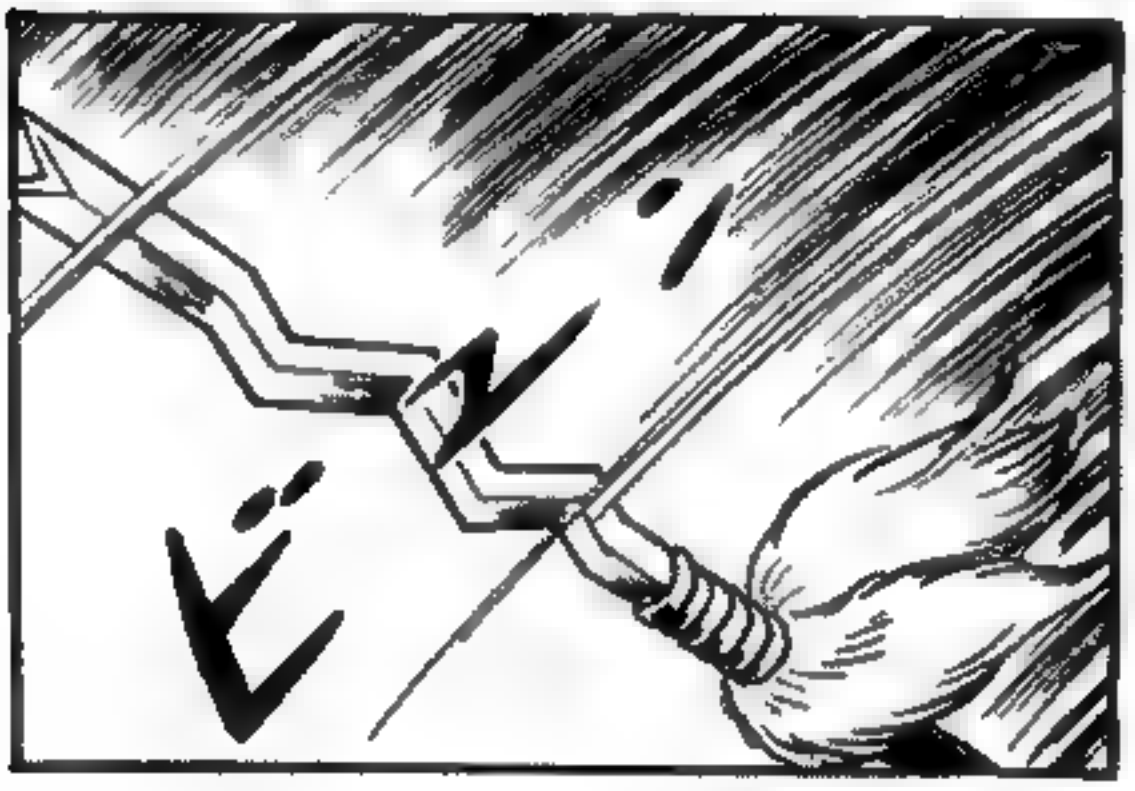
BIG WORDS BUT I HOPE YOU CAN BACK THEM UP!

COME! I'LL PLAY WITH YOU AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!

HA! I'LL MAKE YOU REALIZE JUST HOW BIG THIS WORLD IS!







H-HE'S TOO MUCH FOR ME...

AGH!

GAHH!

DAMN...

AH!?

ZHAO YUN ZILONG SHALL BE YOUR NEXT OPPONENT.

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE SO EASILY, XING DAORONG?

ZHAO YUN ZILONG!?

NGHH...

THROW DOWN YOUR AXE OR DIE, THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

F-FINE, I'LL THROW DOWN MY AXE.

GOOD, NOW DISMOUNT FROM YOUR HORSE.

GOOD, JUST LIKE THAT.
NOW WALK.

劉
劉
劉
劉
EXCELLENT, YOU'VE CAPTURED XING DAORONG!
WAIT JUST A MOMENT, MY LORD.
BEHEAD HIM AT ONCE!

AN EASY ENOUGH TASK TO ACCOMPLISH, AS LONG AS YOU SET ME FREE.

BRING US YOUR COMMANDER LIU XIAN ALIVE AND I SHALL NOT ONLY LET YOU LIVE BUT REWARD YOU AS WELL. WHAT SAY YOU TO THAT?

RAID OUR CAMPS TONIGHT AND I SHALL TAKE LIU XIAN CAPTIVE AMIDST THE CHAOS.

OH? AND WHAT PLAN DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

I SEE.

ONCE LIU XIAN SURRENDERS, HIS FATHER LIU DU WILL SURRENDER AT ONCE AS WELL, MAKING LINGLING YOURS.

NO, I DETECT SINCERITY FROM HIS WORDS. BETTER TO MAKE USE OF HIM THAN TO KILL HIM FOR NAUGHT.

KONGMING, I DO NOT LIKE HOW EASILY THIS MAN AGREED TO YOUR PLAN. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO EXECUTE HIM INSTEAD.

UNTIE HIS ROPES.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES ARE TALENTED MEN. MY LORD MUST MAKE USE OF AS MANY MEN AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SUCCEED. SO LET US DO AS HE SAYS AND RAID THEIR CAMPS TONIGHT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HERE IS YOUR HORSE AND AXE.

GOOD BYE THEN.

THANK YOU.

GOOD LUCK.

DECEIT UPON DECEIT

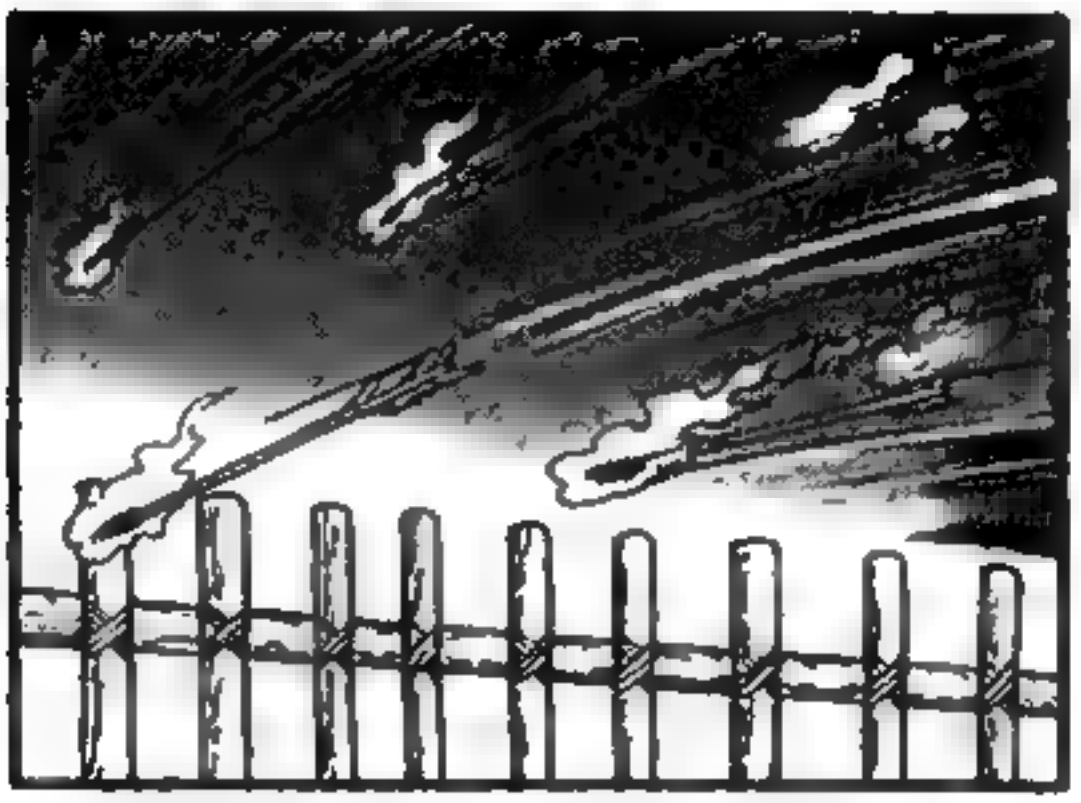
THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

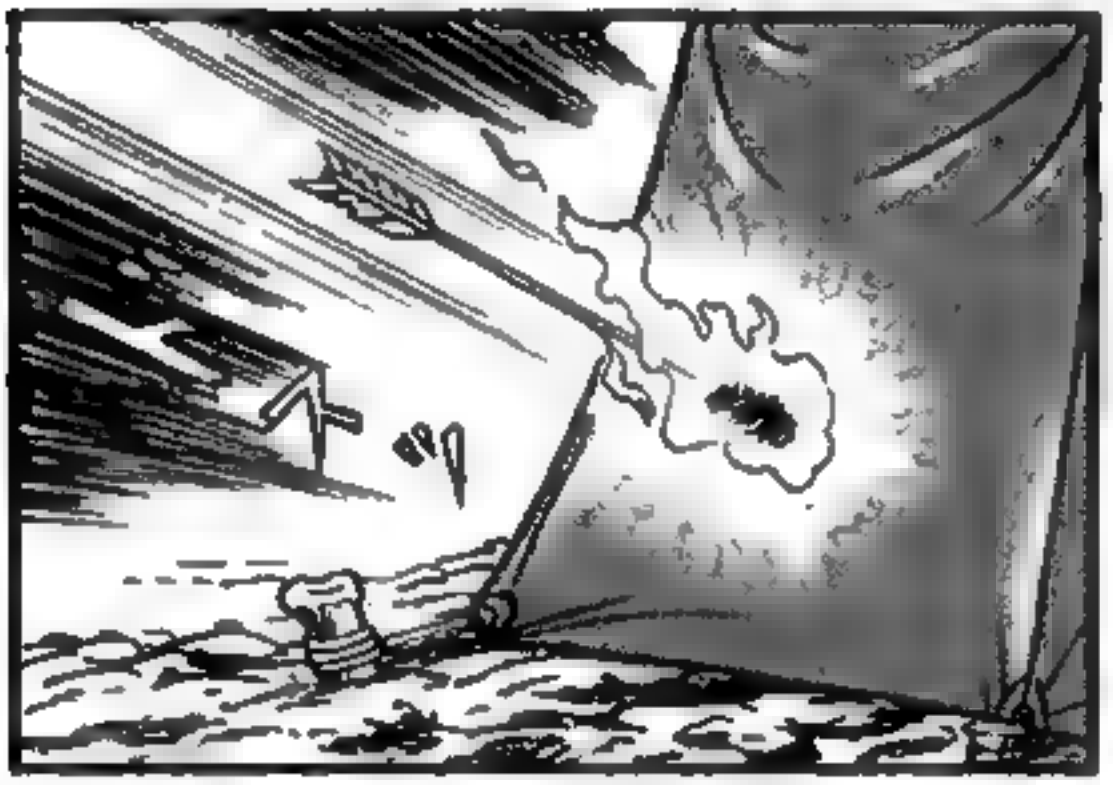
REGARDLESS, ATTACKING THEM HEAD-ON WILL ONLY LEAD TO OUR DEFEAT.

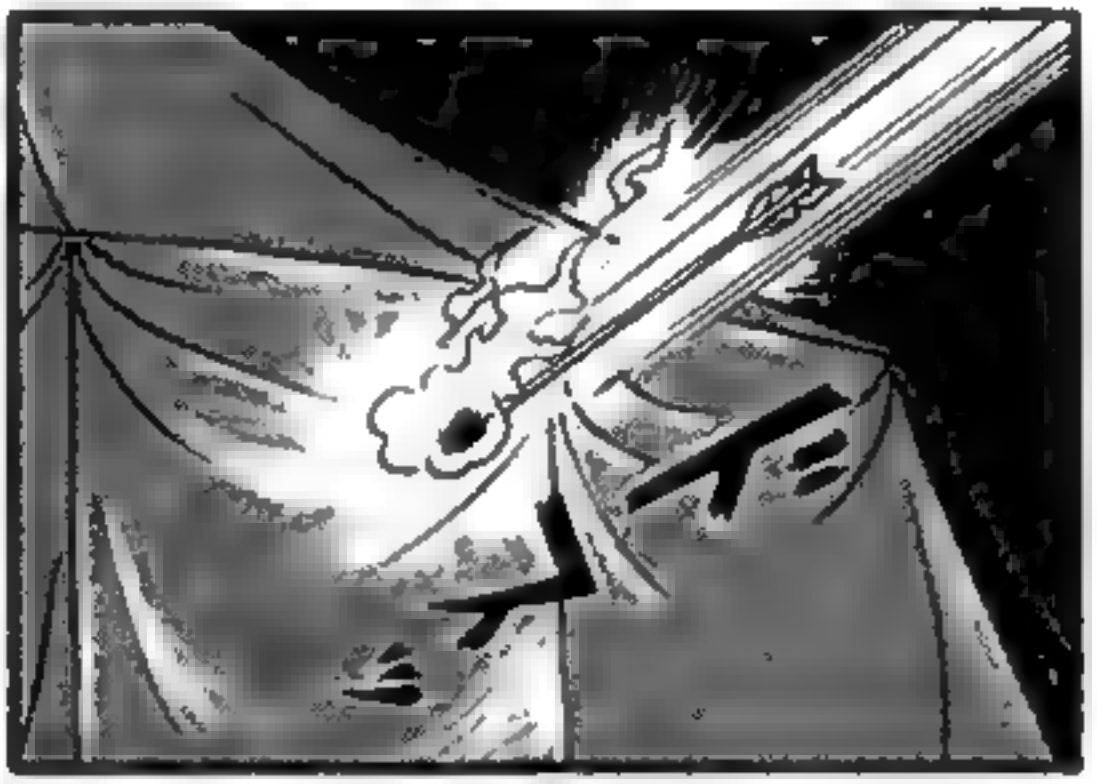
ALRIGHT, HAVE THE MEN MOVE OUT!

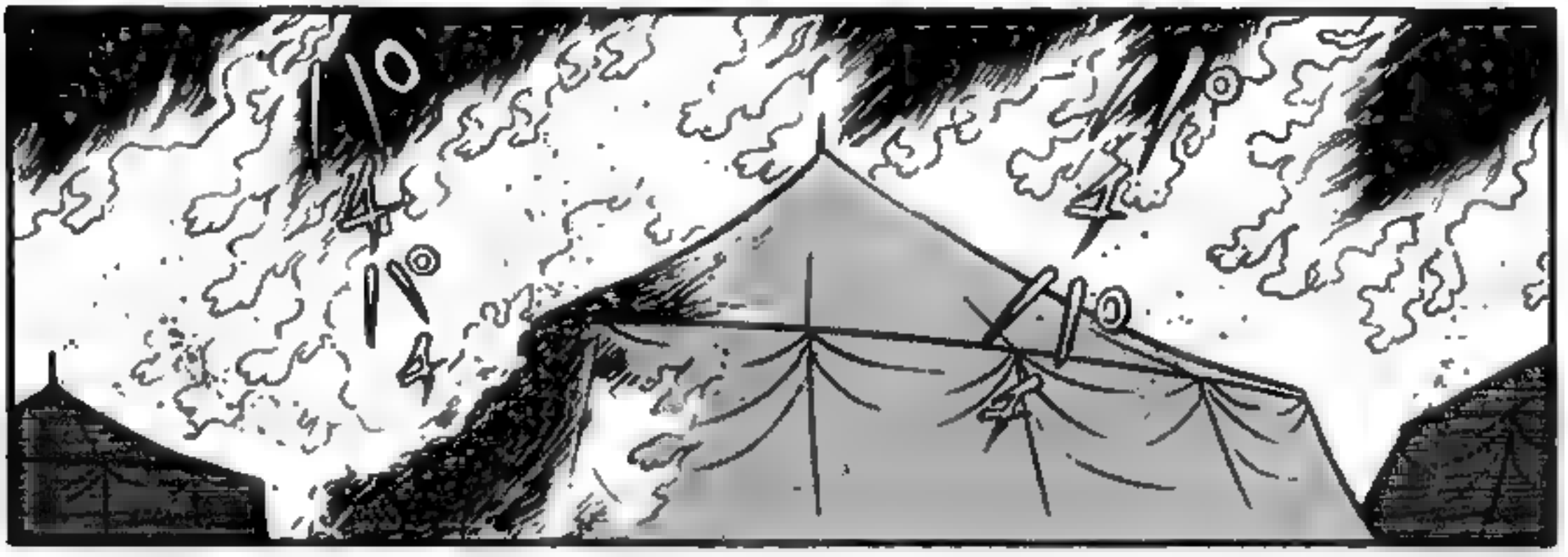
I SEE.
WE MUST HIDE OUR TROOPS OUTSIDE THE CAMPS SO THAT THEY CAN AMBUSH THE ENEMIES WHEN THEY COME TO RAID OUR BASE TONIGHT.

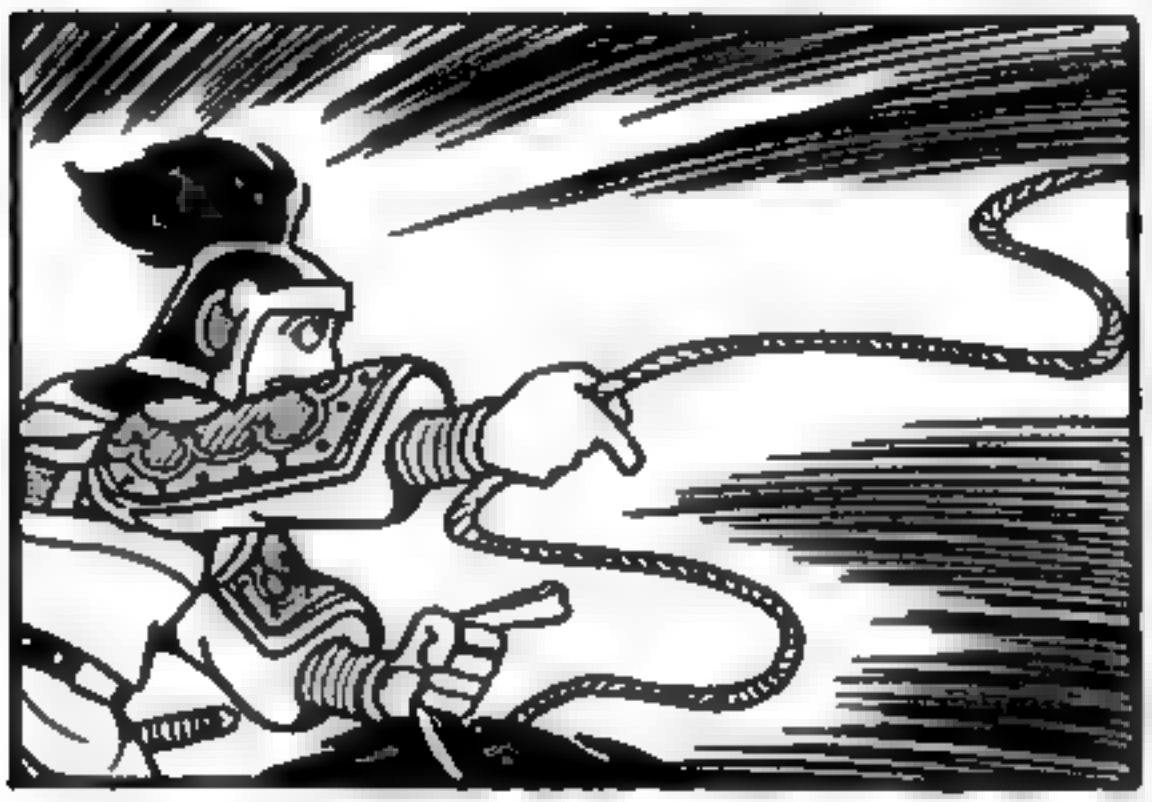
GOOD, THEY CAME AS PLANNED...

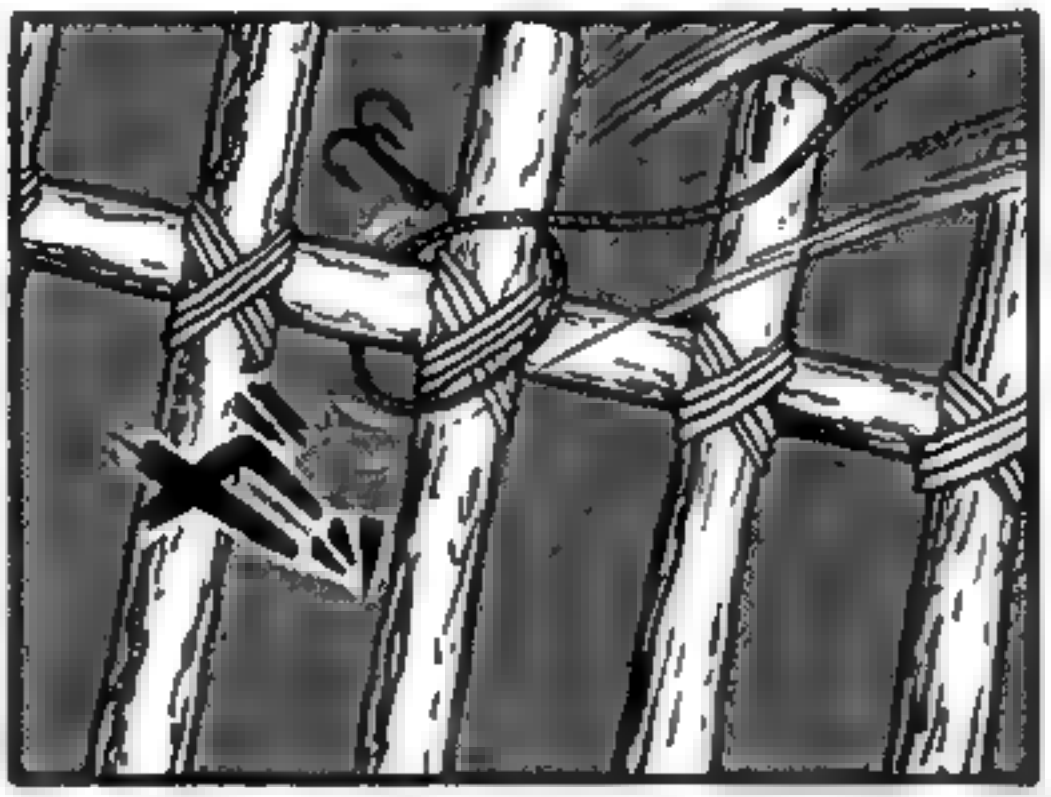


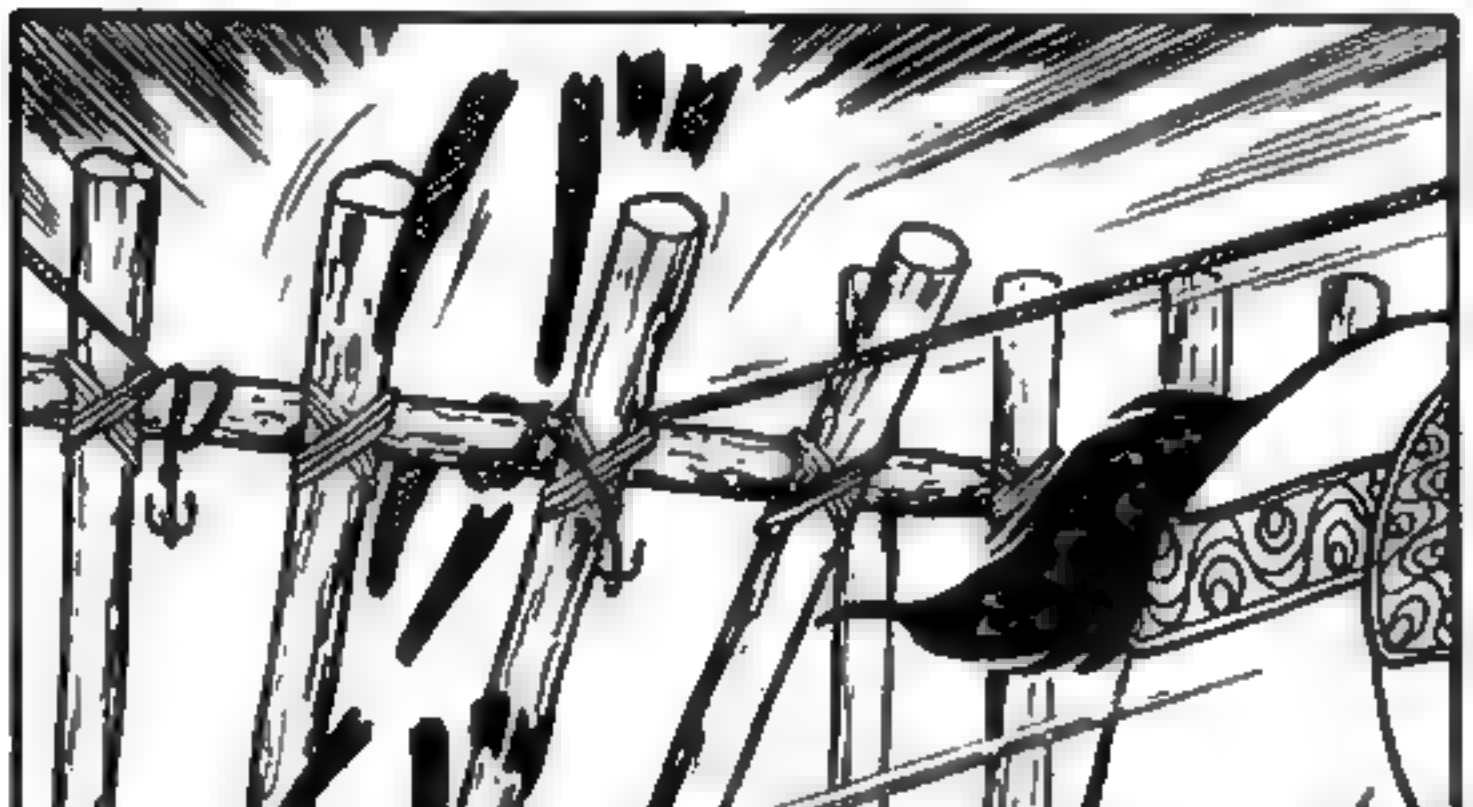


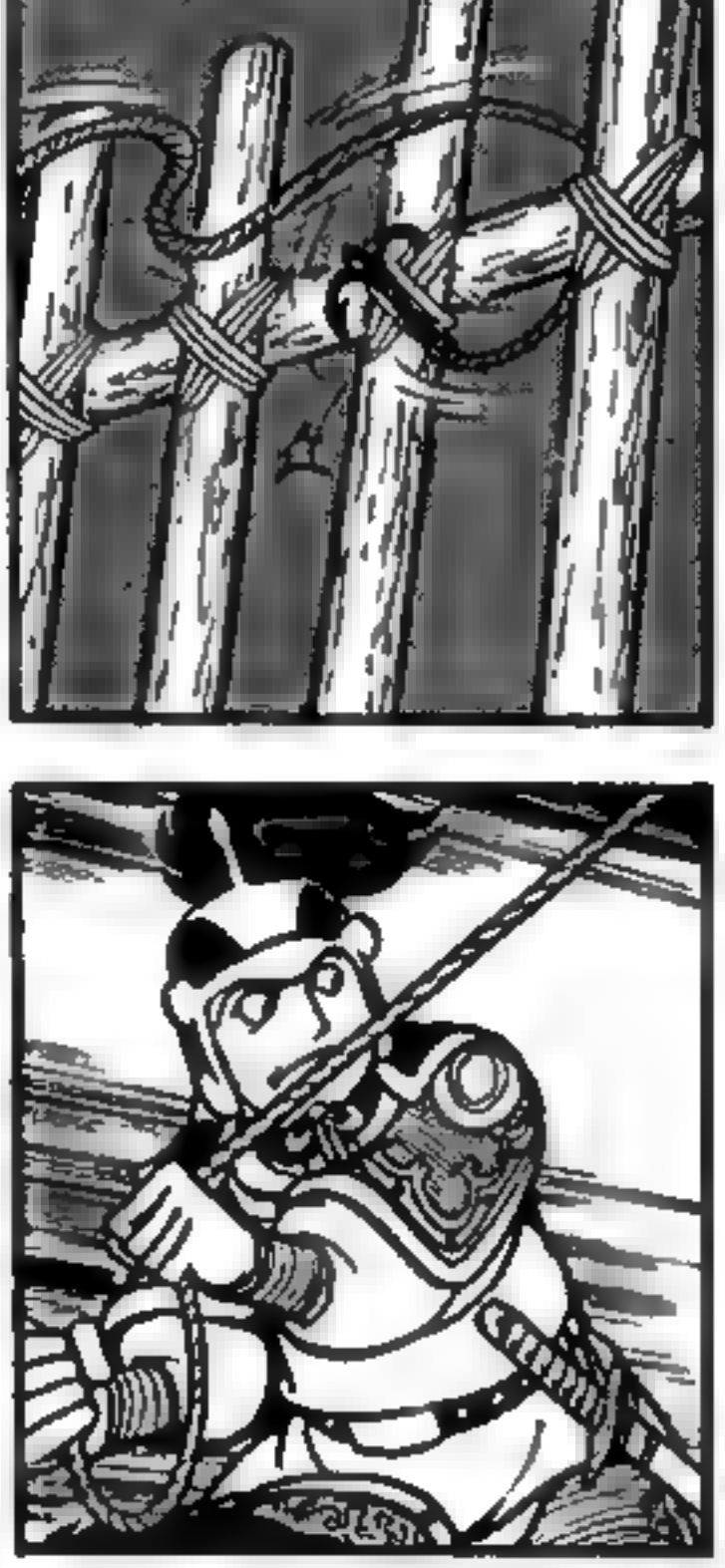


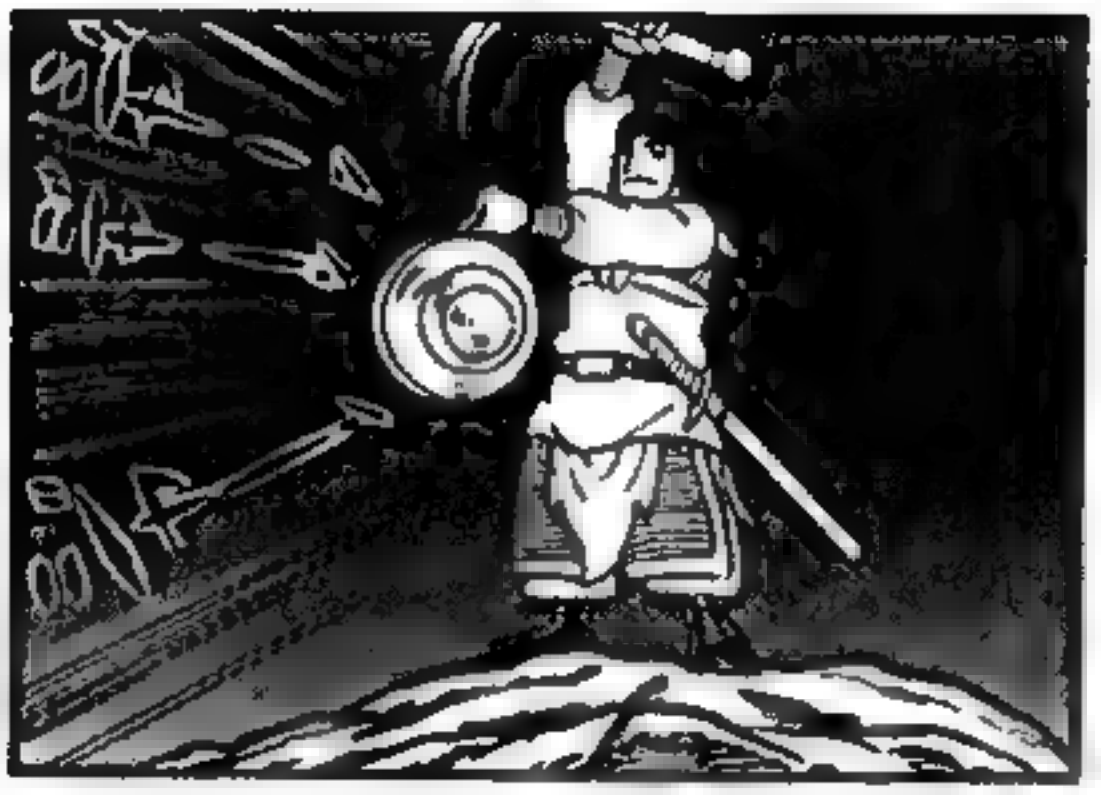








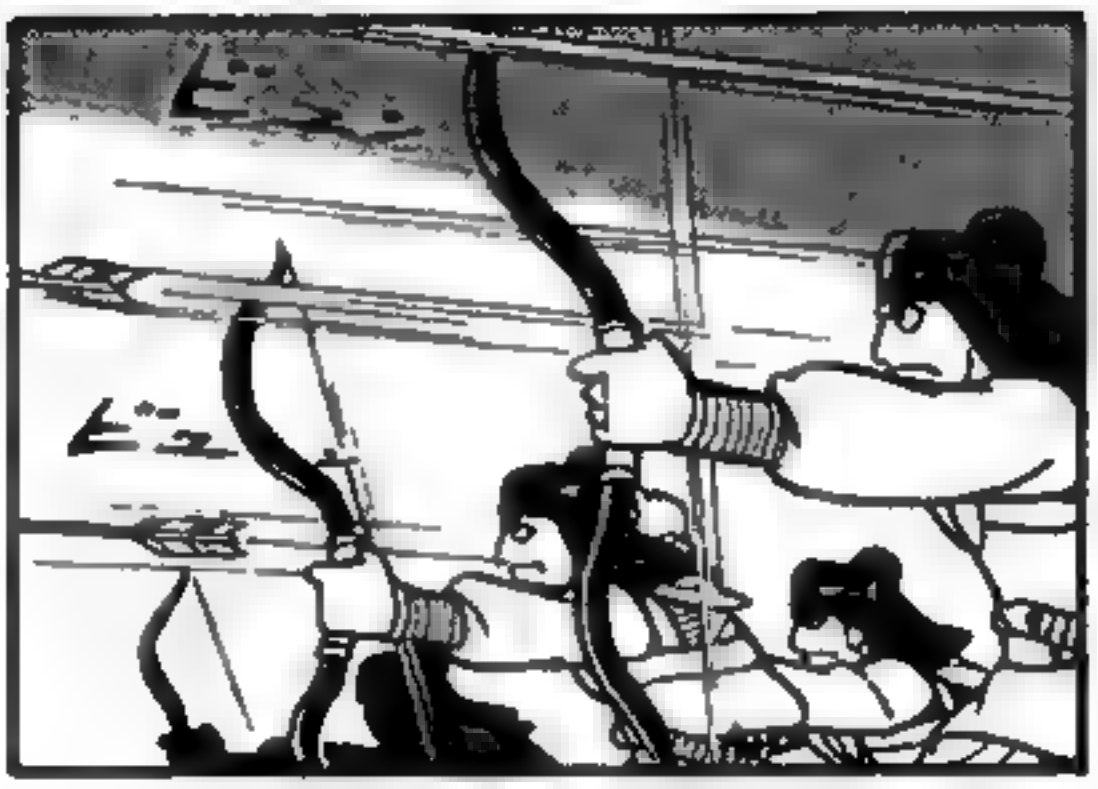




NOW!

HUH?

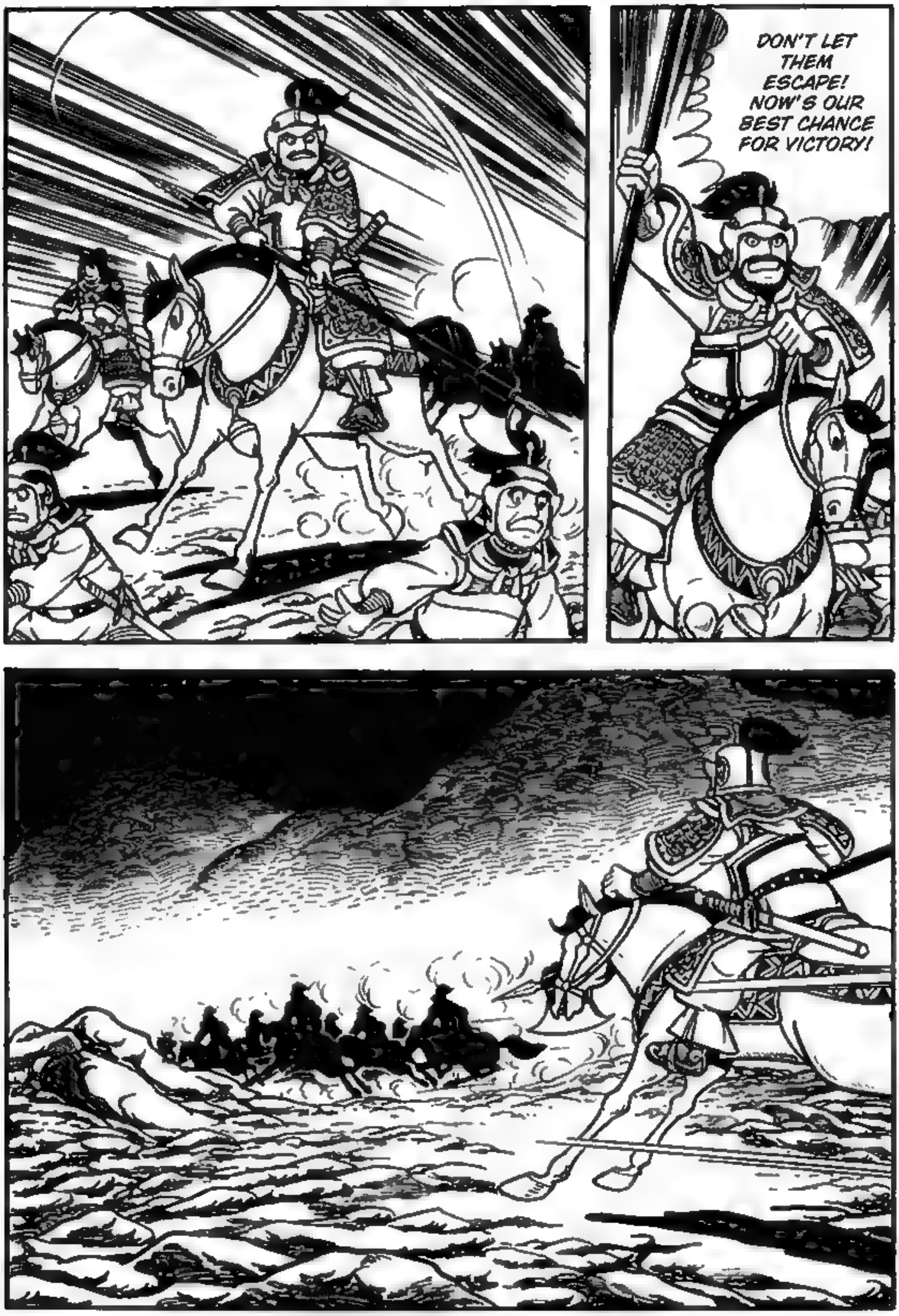
HM?



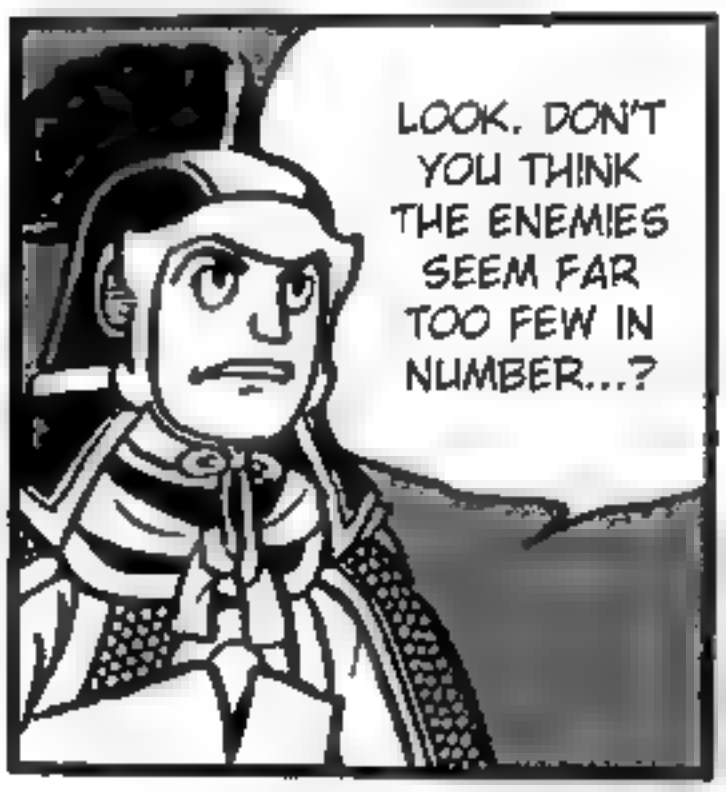
IT'S A TRAP!

RETREAT!

AGHH!


DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE! NOW'S OUR BEST CHANCE FOR VICTORY!

HM?


LOOK. DON'T YOU THINK THE ENEMIES SEEM FAR TOO FEW IN NUMBER...?

WHAT IS IT, SIR?
XING DAORONG!

NOT ONLY THAT, WE HAVE TO HURRY BACK TO OUR CAMPS AND PUT THE FIRES OUT.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO PURSUE THEM ANY FARTHER THAN THIS.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

PULL BACK!

UNDERSTOOD, SIR.

WHA-

AH!

XING DAORONG, MY FRIEND, WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WE STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED WHAT WE STARTED LAST TIME!

THE ENEMIES LURED US OUT INTO A TRAP OF THEIR OWN...

AHHH!

ATTACK!

RETREAT!
RETREAT!

劉

HM?

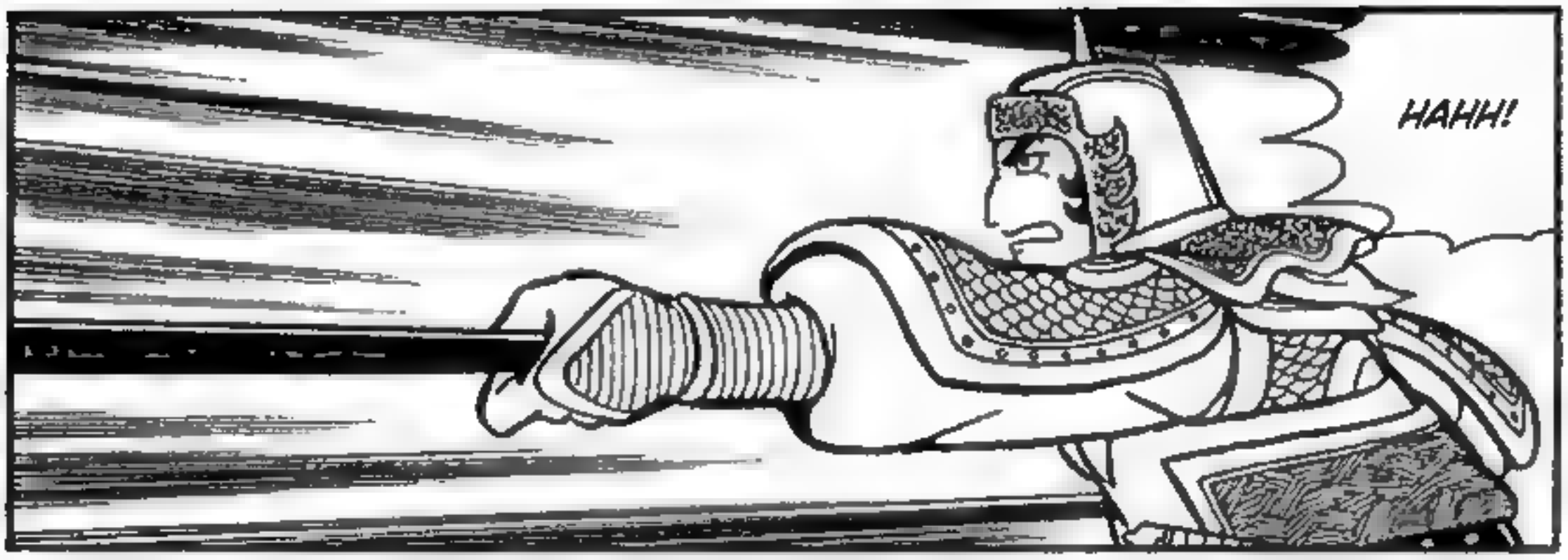
!?

ZHAO ZILONG!

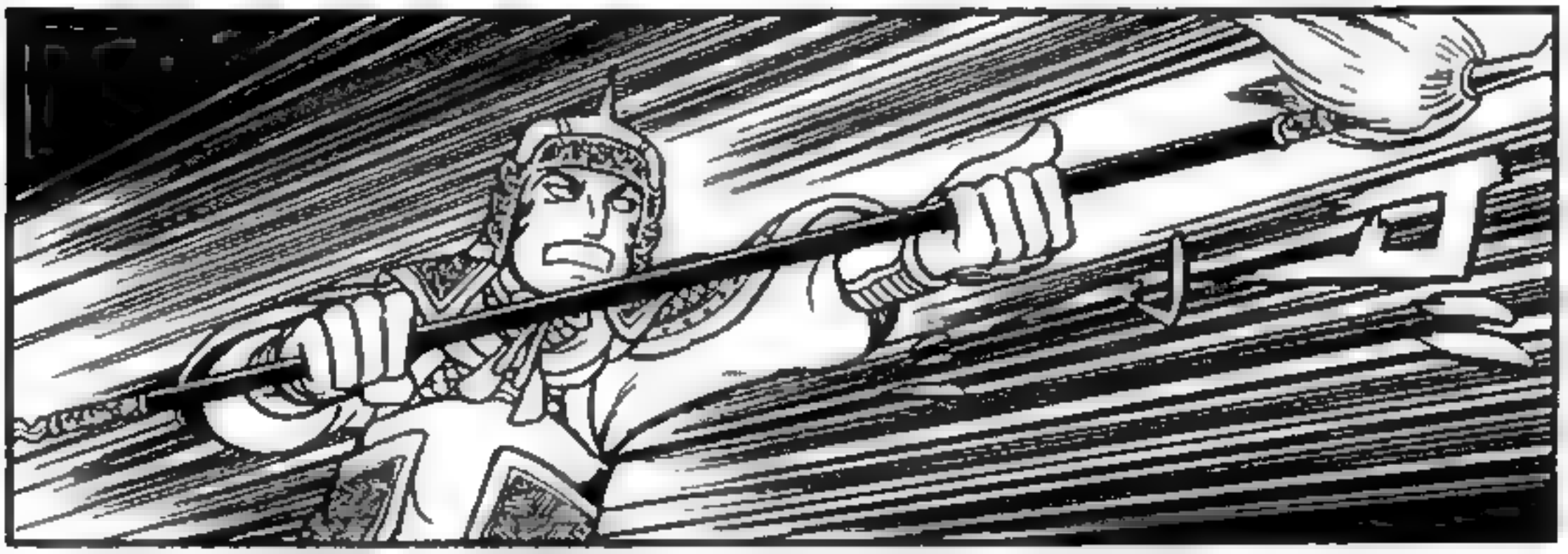
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S ARRIVED AT LAST.

ATTACK!

NGHH!
READY TO TAKE MY SPEAR AT LAST, XING DAORONG?


HAHH!

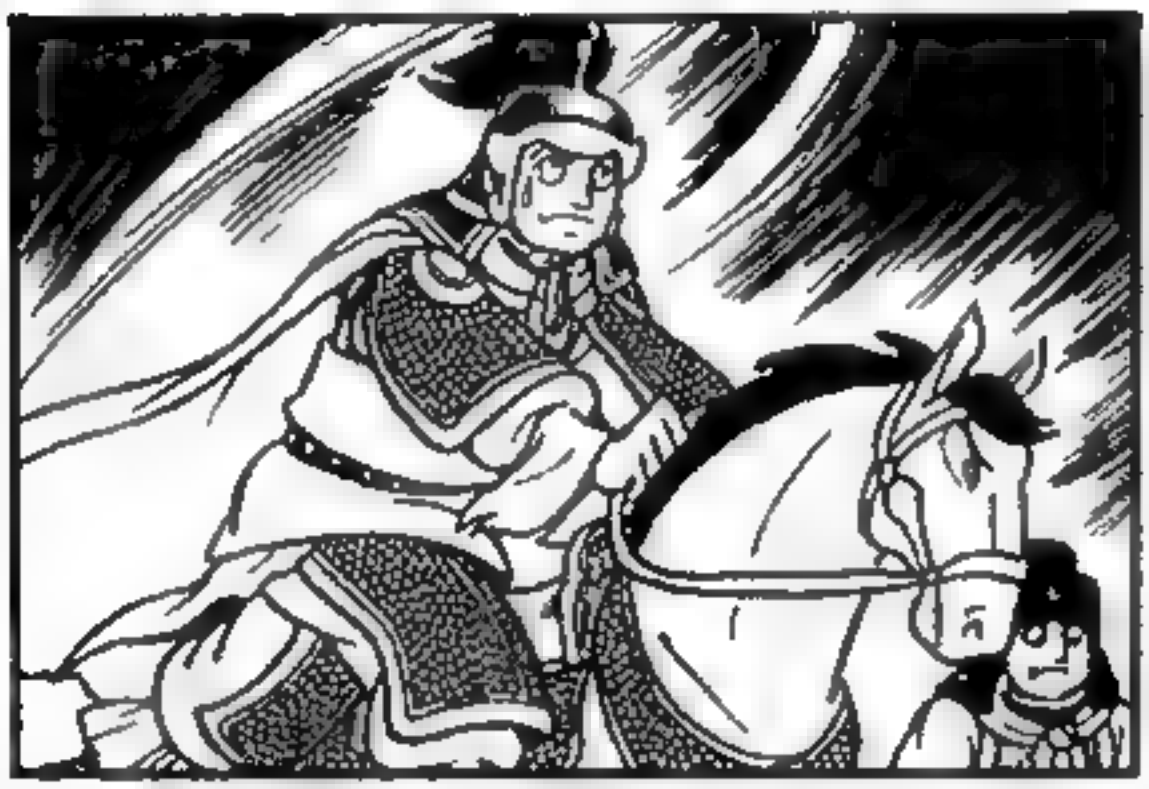
AGH!



GAHHHH!

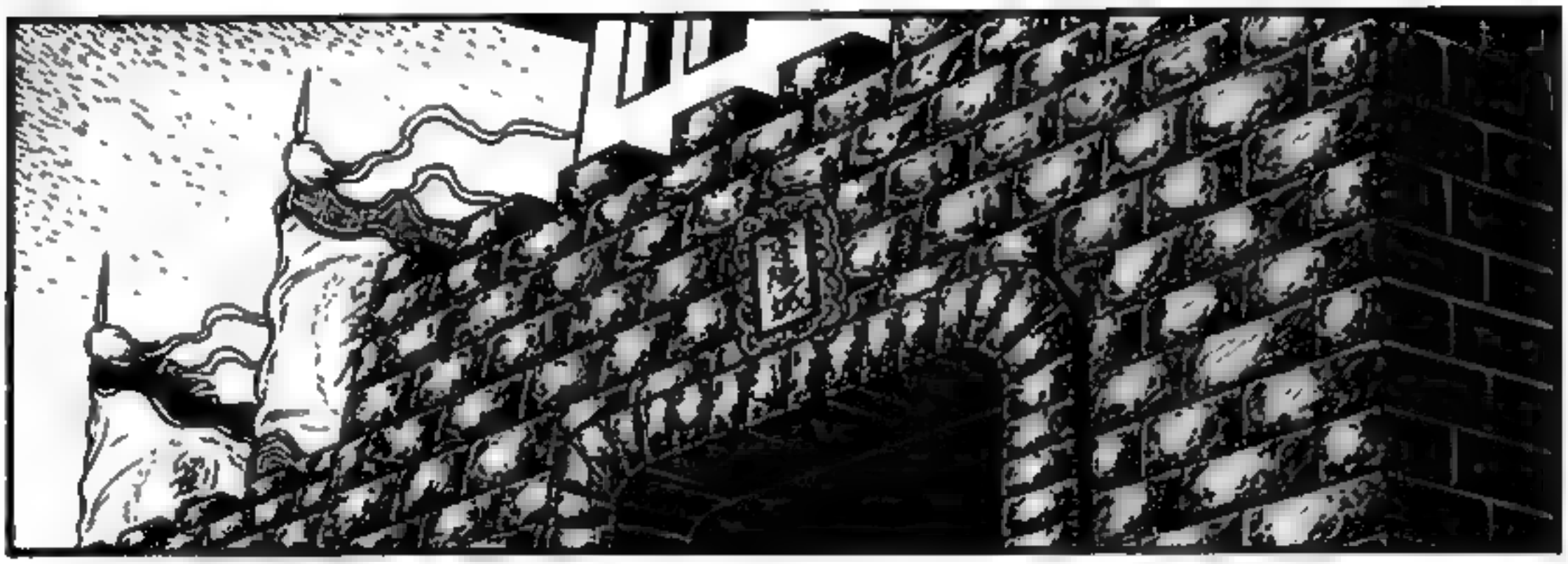
DO YOU STILL PLAN ON RESISTING!?

X-XING DAORONG!

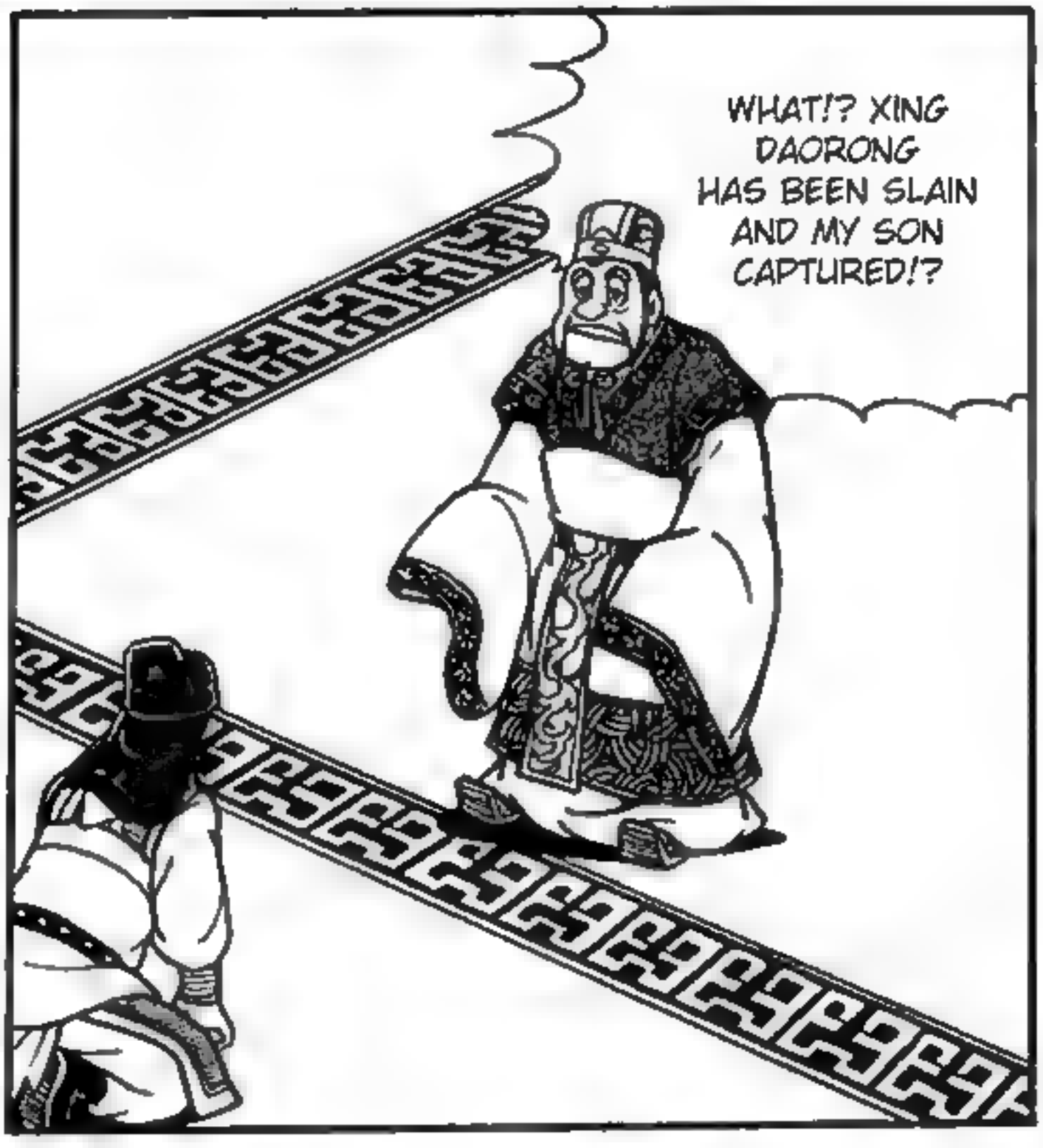


AHH...

SHOULD'VE DONE SO FROM THE BEGINNING AND SAVED US ALL THE TROUBLE...
W-WE SURRENDER. PLEASE SPARE OUR LIVES.



OH BOY, I KNEW IT...


WHAT!? XING DAORONG HAS BEEN SLAIN AND MY SON CAPTURED!?

W-WHAT ARE THEIR DEMANDS?

AN IMMEDIATE SURRENDER, OR ELSE THEY'LL ATTACK AT ONCE.

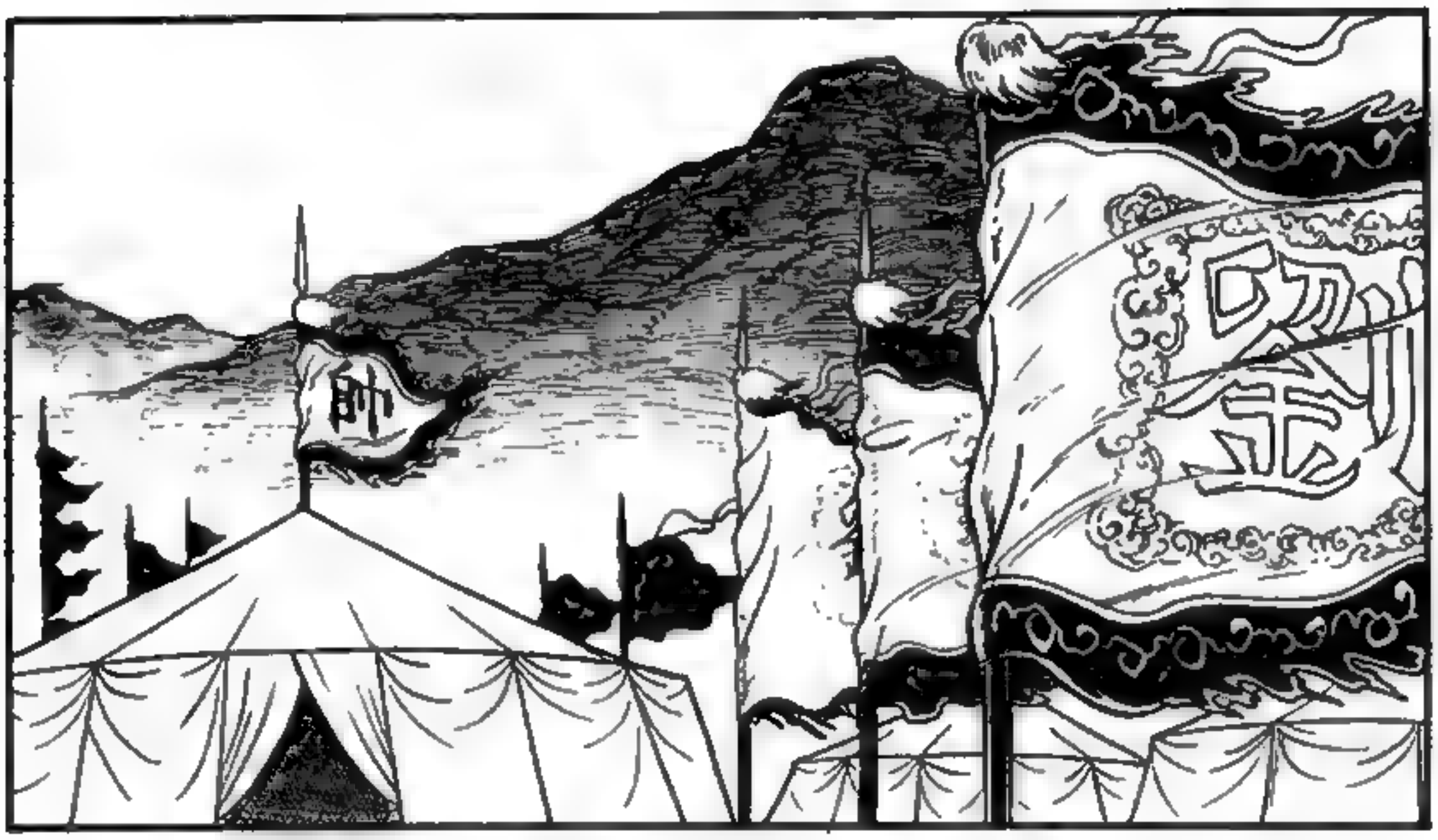
T-TELL THEM I NEVER SERIOUSLY INTENDED TO FIGHT THEM! WE'LL SURRENDER AT ONCE!

AND SO, LIU BEI AND HIS TROOPS MADE THEIR WAY ORDERLY INSIDE LINGLING

LIU BEI ALLOWED LIU DU TO CONTINUE HIS POST AS LINGLING'S GOVERNOR.

AND HIS ARMY THEN HEADED TOWARDS GUIYANG WITH LIU XIAN IN THEIR RANKS

CAPTURE OF GUIYANG



SINCE ZHAO ZILONG ANSWERED FIRST, WHY DON'T WE ALLOW HIM, MY LORD?

NO, I NEVER INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT.
WHAT? THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY RULE ABOUT DECIDING OUR MISSION BASED ON WHOEVER ANSWERS FIRST! IS THERE SOME REASON YOU WON'T ALLOW ME?

I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
HOW ABOUT WE DECIDE BY DRAWING LOTS THEN?

GOT IT!

I'VE WRITTEN FIRST (先) OR SECOND (後) ON THESE SO PICK WHICHEVER YOU WISH.

NO, MAYBE IT'S THIS ONE?

PLEASE HURRY, IF YOU WILL.

WAIT, NO. MAYBE I SHOULD GO WITH MY FIRST INSTINCTS?

後

FINE!

先

THEN I'LL JUST PICK THIS!

AGH!

AWW, C'MON.

SORRY, ZHANG FEI. NO CAN DO.

YOU, UHH... WANT TO TRADE?

ZHANG FEI, THAT'S ENOUGH.

3000 SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

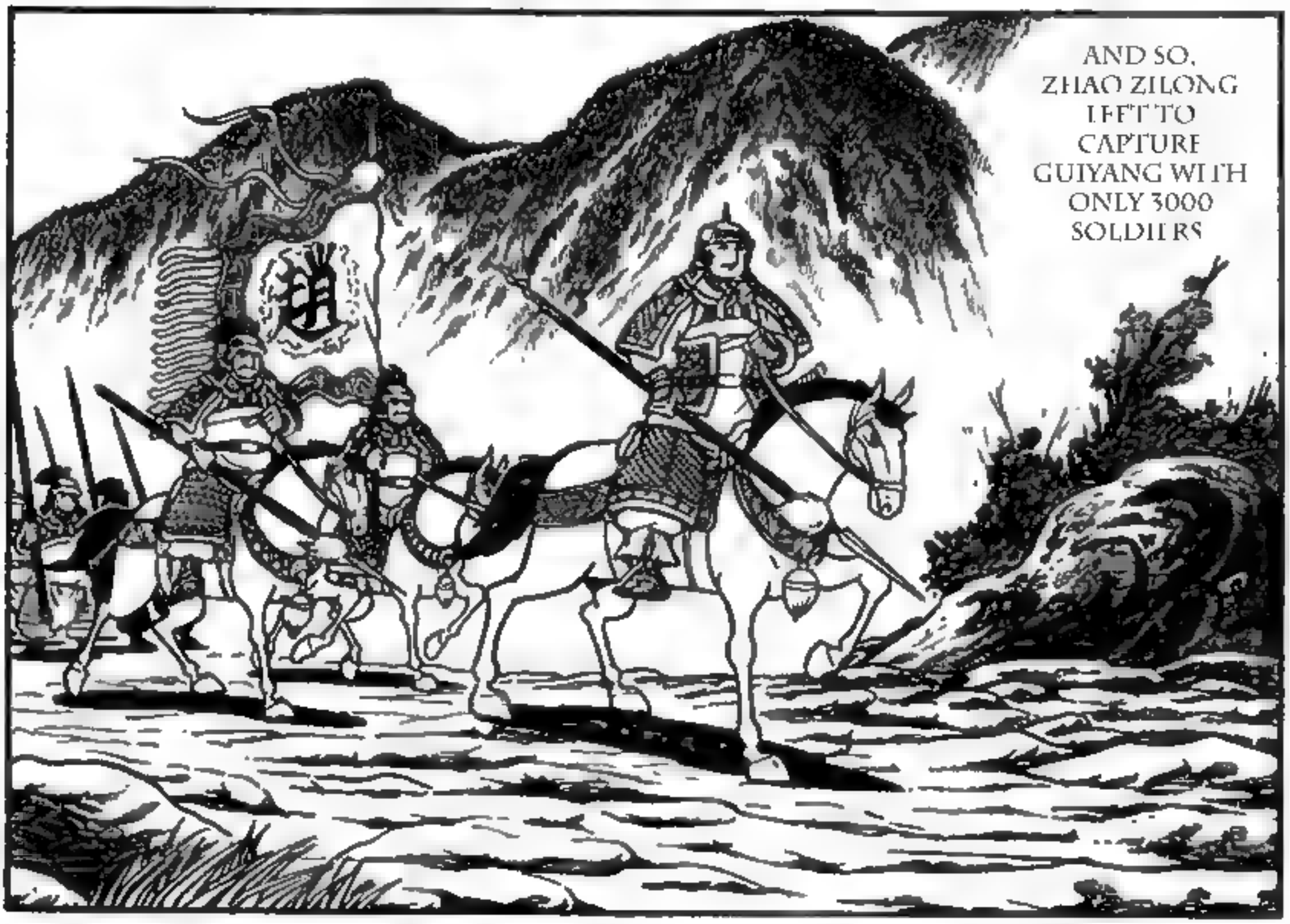
HOW MANY SOLDIERS WILL YOU NEED?

IF I FAIL, I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT ANY PUNISHMENTS.

WILL THAT REALLY BE ALL YOU NEED?

YEAH. YEAH. WHATEVER.
NO HARSH FEELINGS, ALRIGHT?

YES, SIR.
AS YOU WISH.


AND SO, ZHAO ZILONG LEFT TO CAPTURE GUIYANG WITH ONLY 3000 SOLDIERS

ZHAO FAN, GOVERNOR OF GUIYANG

I'M OF THE OPINION WE SHOULD SURRENDER PEACEFULLY. I HEAR LIU BEI WAS KIND ENOUGH TO LET LIU DU RETAIN HIS GOVERNORSHIP OF LINGLING.

I, TOO, DISAGREE AS WELL. LIU BEI MIGHT BE CALLED THE IMPERIAL UNCLE BY THE HAN EMPEROR, BUT IN TRUTH, HE'S A MERE COMMONER THAT ONCE MADE A LIVING BY WEAVING AND SELLING STRAW MATS! HOW COULD MY LORD SO EASILY BOW DOWN AND HAND OVER GUIYANG TO A MAN LIKE HIM!?

I COULD NOT DISAGREE MORE, MY LORD!

ALLOW ME, CHEN YING, TO FIGHT THIS ZHAO ZILONG AND DETERMINE WHO THE BETTER FIGHTER IS THEN! IF I CANNOT BEST HIM, THEN MY LORD CAN SURRENDER.

BUT LIU BEI HAS MANY FIERCE GENERALS WORKING FOR HIM, SUCH AS GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. I HEAR THE ONE LEADING THE ATTACK ON GUIYANG IS ZHAO YUN ZILONG, THE SAME MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY RAN THROUGH CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY!

FINE, FINE. IF YOU TWO GENERALS FEEL THAT CONFIDENT, THEN YOU MAY DO AS YOU WISH.

I, BAO LONG, WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL.

CHEN YING
RODE OUT WITH
4000 SOLDIERS
TO FACE AGAINST
ZHAO ZILONG

WHO IS YOUR COMMANDER! SHOW YOURSELF! I AM ZHAO YUN ZILONG!

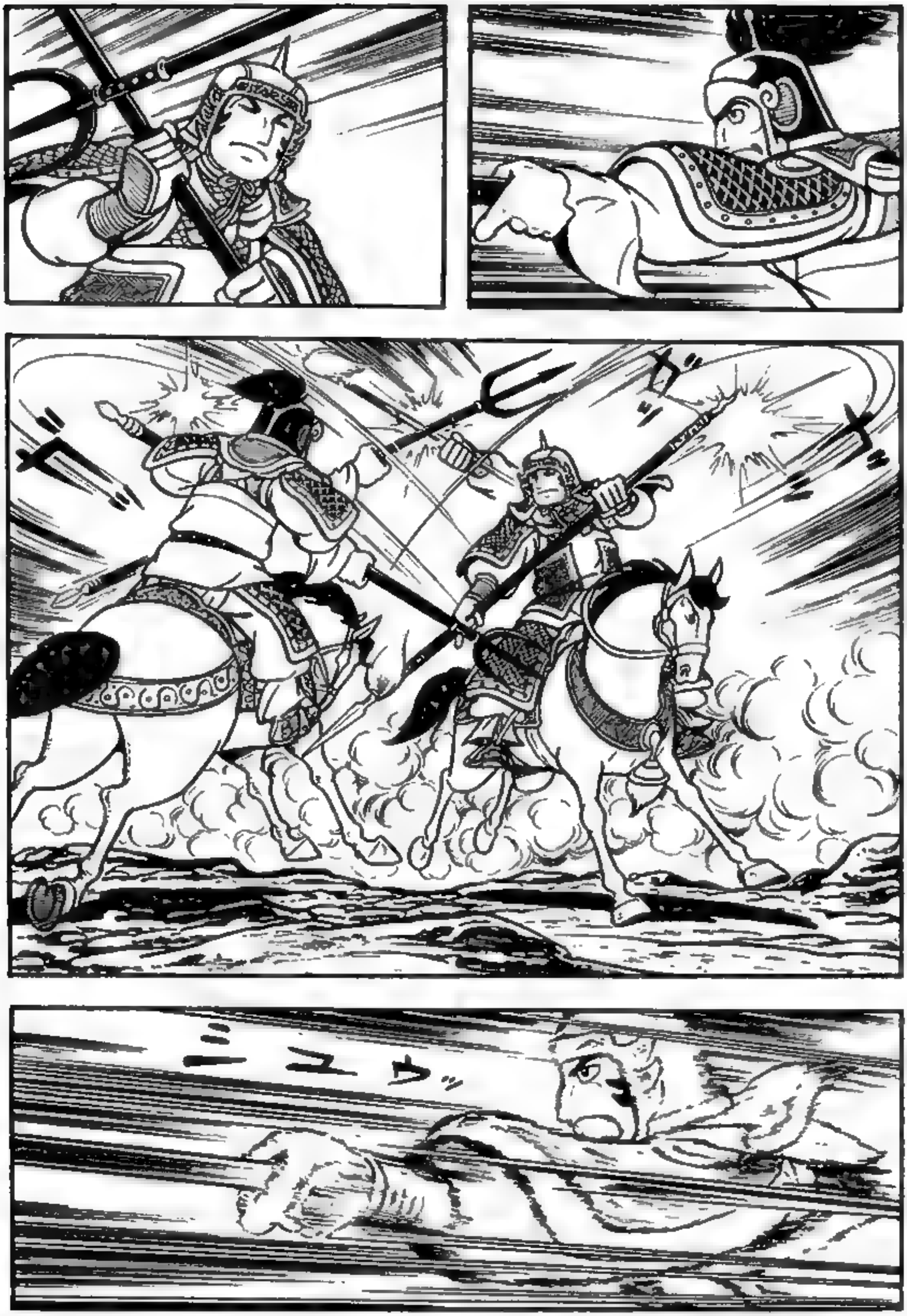
I AM GUIYANG'S COMMANDER, CHEN YING!

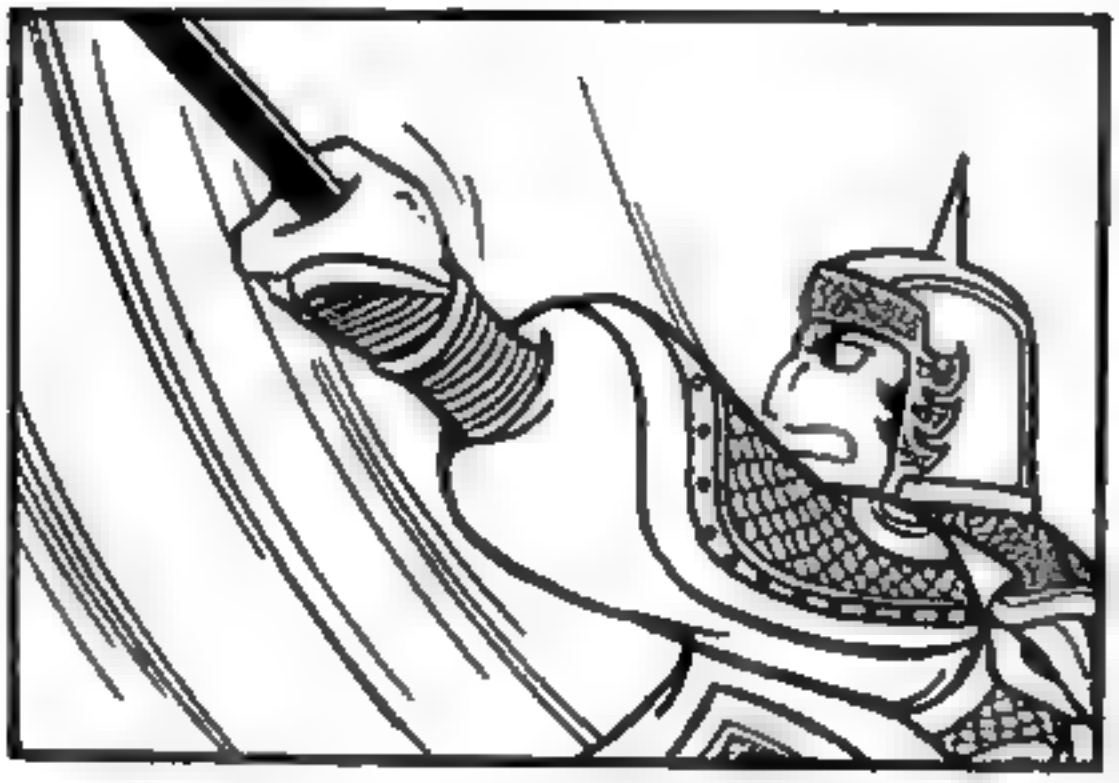
LET US DECIDE WITH OUR SPEARS THEN.

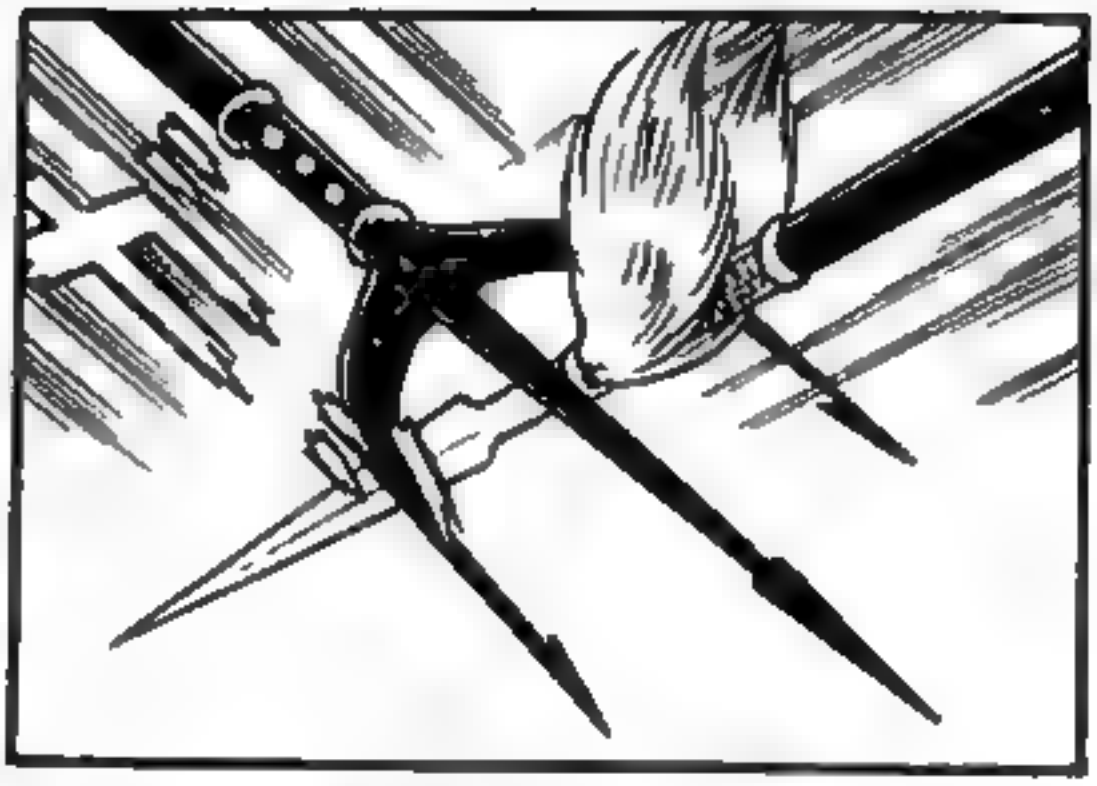
MY FEELINGS EXACTLY.

THE ONLY ONE MY LORD TAKES ORDERS FROM IS CHANCELLOR CAO CAO! IT IS YOU REBELS WHO SHOULD SURRENDER TO THE CHANCELLOR, WHO ACTS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HAN!

MY LORD, LIU BEI, BRINGS HIS TROOPS HERE IN ORDER TO HELP LIU QI RIGHTFULLY REGAIN THE LANDS OF JINGZHOU, AFTER HIS FATHER LIU BIAO'S PASSING. SO SURRENDER AT ONCE!





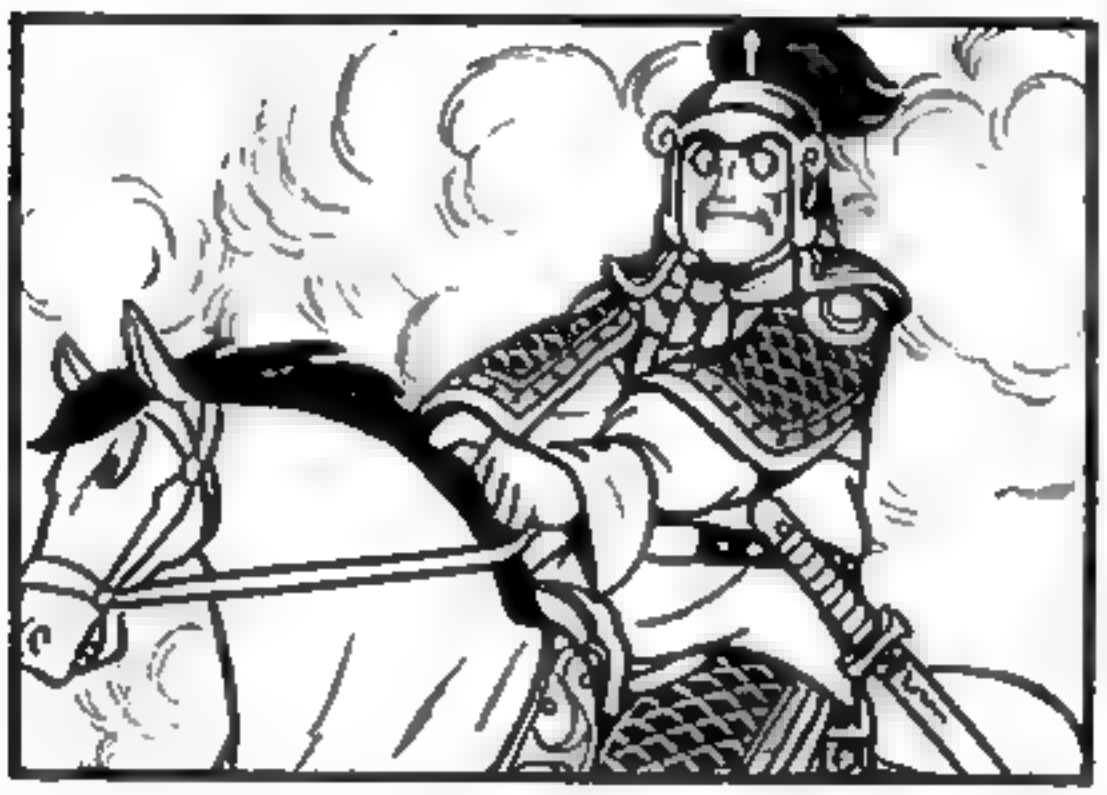


AGHH!

LEARN TO PICK AN OPPONENT OF YOUR OWN LEVEL NEXT TIME.

JUST AS YOUR STRENGTH IS LACKING IN COMPARISON TO MINE, SO TOO IS GUIYANG'S MIGHT COMPARED TO LIU BEI'S ARMY. CONTINUE TO FOOLISHLY RESIST AND DESTRUCTION IS THE ONLY PATH WAITING AHEAD OF YOU.

I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE TODAY BUT YOU BEST RETURN TO YOUR LORD AND HAVE ANOTHER DISCUSSION ON WHAT TO DO.



NOW GO!

HE SAID *WHAT* TO YOU!?

SEE! I TOLD YOU FIGHTING THEM WOULD BE POINTLESS!

IN ANY CASE, I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER NOW SO JUST STAY QUIET!

GREAT, IF I HAD JUST SURREN-DERED TO BEGIN WITH, I'D HAVE MADE A BETTER FIRST IMPRESSION...

YES, MY LORD.

BRING OUT THE CHARIOT IMMEDIATELY. I SHALL GO PERSONALLY TO SURRENDER TO ZHAO ZILONG BEFORE HE HAS A CHANGE OF HEART.

ZHAO FAN QUICKLY RUSHED TOWARDS ZHAO ZILONG'S CAMPS TO SURRENDER

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THANK YOU, GOVERNOR. I'M HONOURED TO HAVE YOU VISIT ME PERSONALLY.

I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF SERIOUSLY RESISTING AGAINST LIU BEI. PLEASE GIVE THIS SEAL OF GUIYANG'S OFFICE TO YOUR LORD AS A SIGN OF OUR SURRENDER.

YES, SIR.

趙

GOVERNOR ZHAO FAN HAS NOW SUBMITTED TO LIU BEI SO LET US TREAT HIM AS AN HONOURED GUEST!

NOT ONLY THAT, I HEAR YOUR HOMETOWN IS CHANGSHAN LIKE MYSELF, MAKING IT ALL THE LIKELIER THAT WE MUST HAVE SHARED A COMMON ANCESTOR MANY GENERATIONS AGO. THUS, I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD. HOW ABOUT IT, GENERAL?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

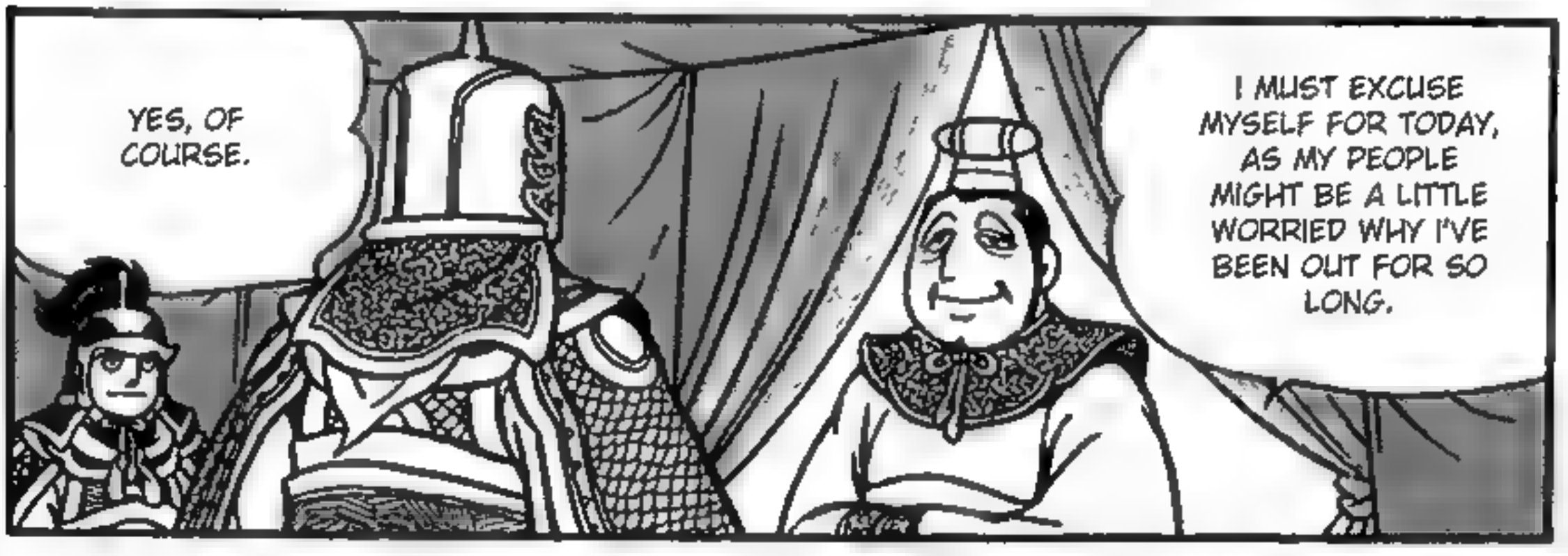
BY THE WAY, I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU AND I BOTH SHARE THE SAME FAMILY NAME ZHAO.

I AM HONOURED, GENERAL.

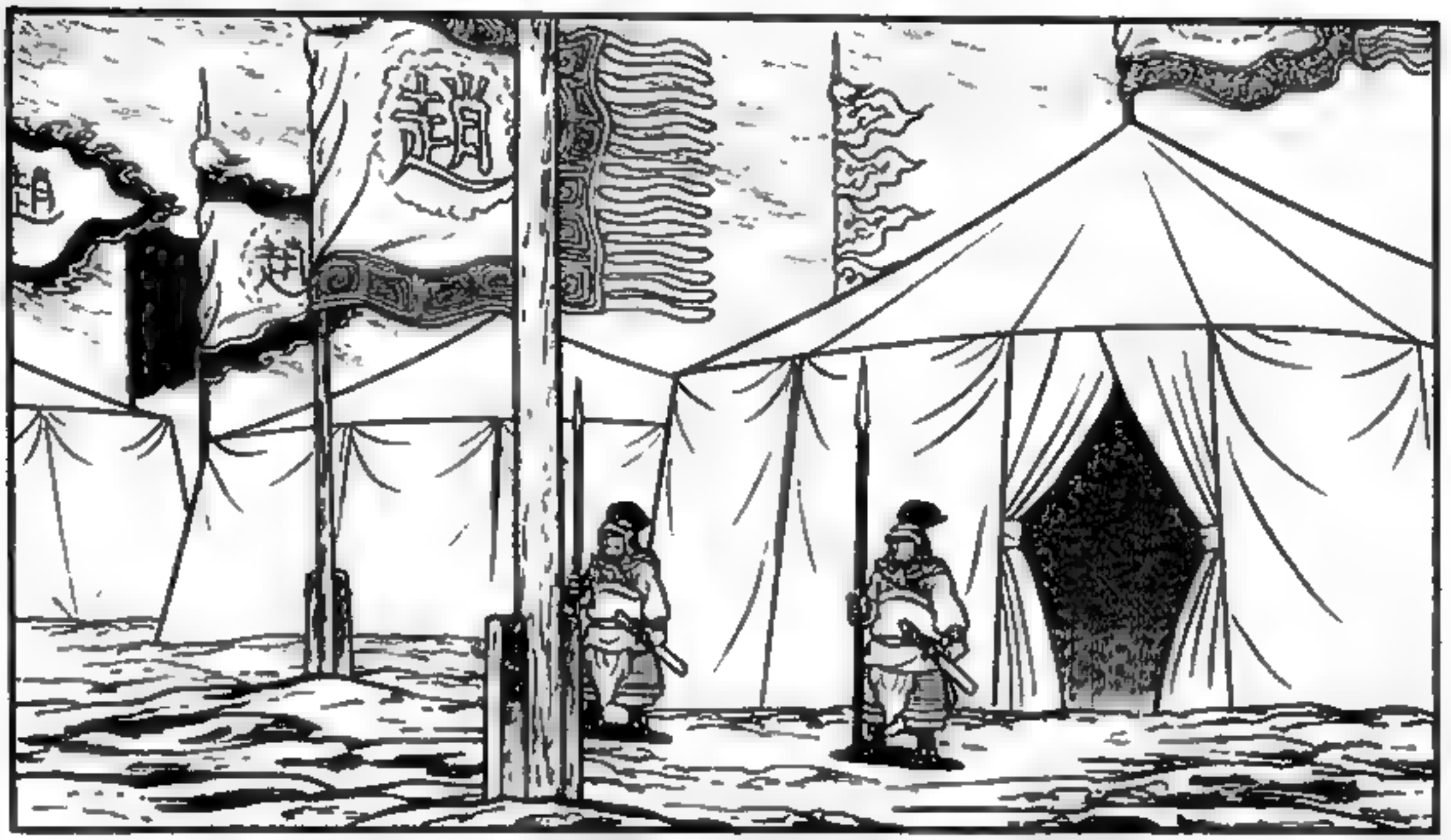
FROM TODAY ON, WE ARE BROTHERS THEN!

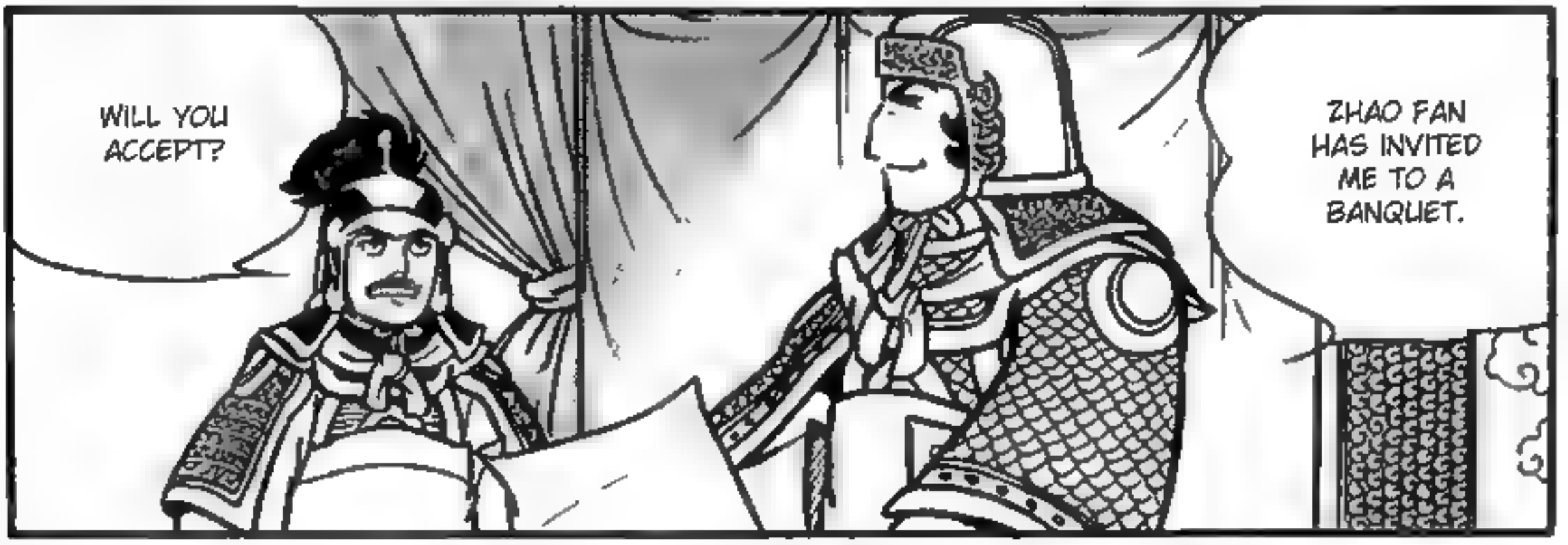
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

WHAT A JOYOUS DAY IT IS TODAY!


YES, OF COURSE.
I MUST EXCUSE MYSELF FOR TODAY, AS MY PEOPLE MIGHT BE A LITTLE WORRIED WHY I'VE BEEN OUT FOR SO LONG.

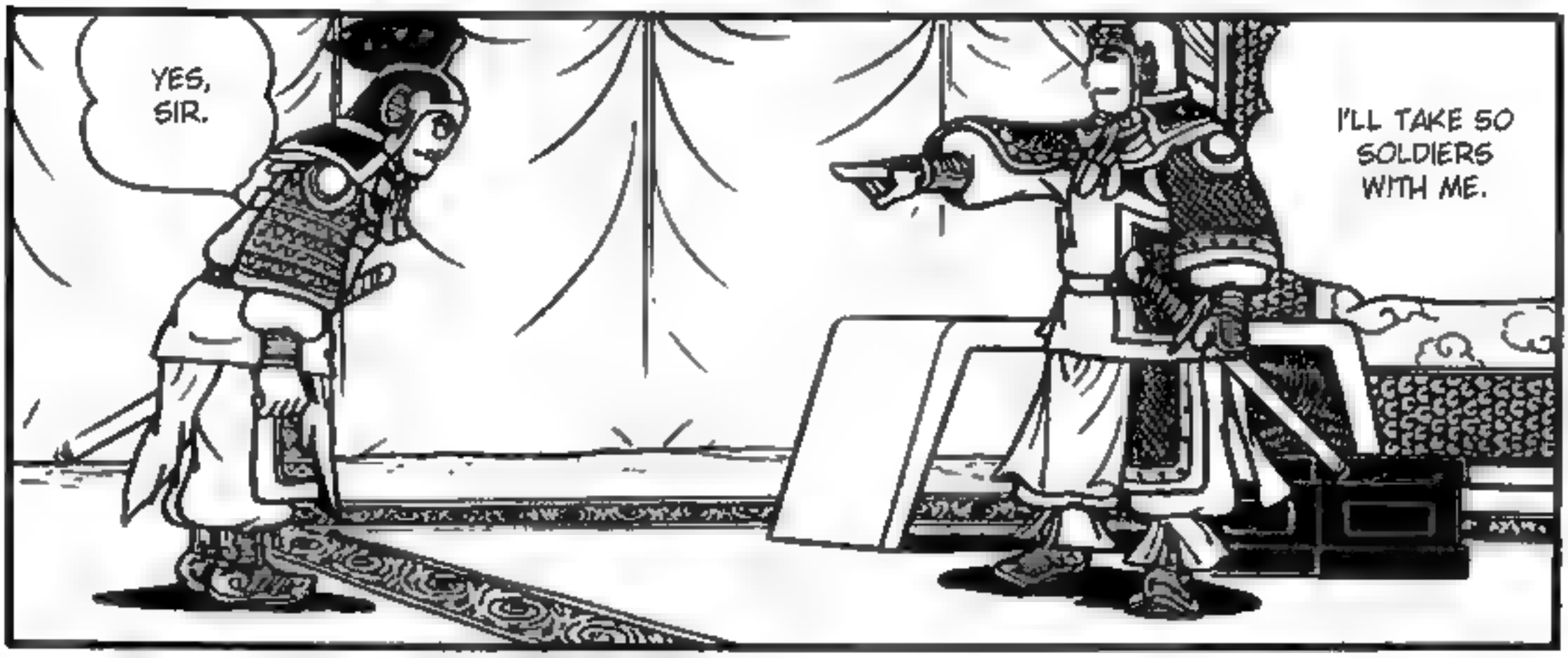
SISTER-IN-LAW





SO I SEE NO REASON TO REFUSE.

WELL, I WAS ALREADY PLANNING ON ENTERING THE CITY TO ENSURE EVERYTHING HAD GONE WELL...


YES, SIR.
I'LL TAKE 50 SOLDIERS WITH ME.

I'M VERY PLEASED YOU ACCEPTED MY INVITATION.

IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE, MORESO BECAUSE WE ARE NOW BROTHERS!

TO ENJOY FINE WINE WITH THE MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY CUT ACROSS CAO CAO'S ARMY WHILE CARRYING LORD LIU BEI'S SON IS...

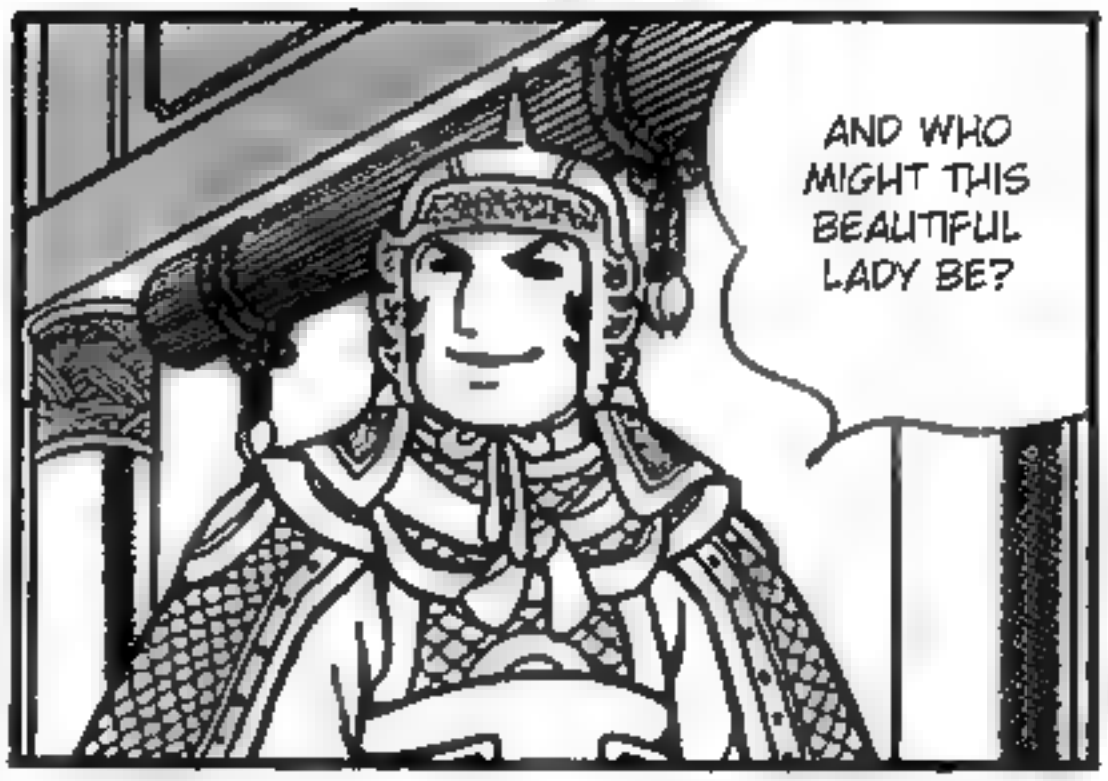
CLAP
CLAP

AH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

YOU
CALLED?

THIS MAN IS THE FAMOUS GENERAL ZHAO YUN ZILONG. PLEASE PAY PROPER RESPECT BY OFFERING HIM A DRINK.

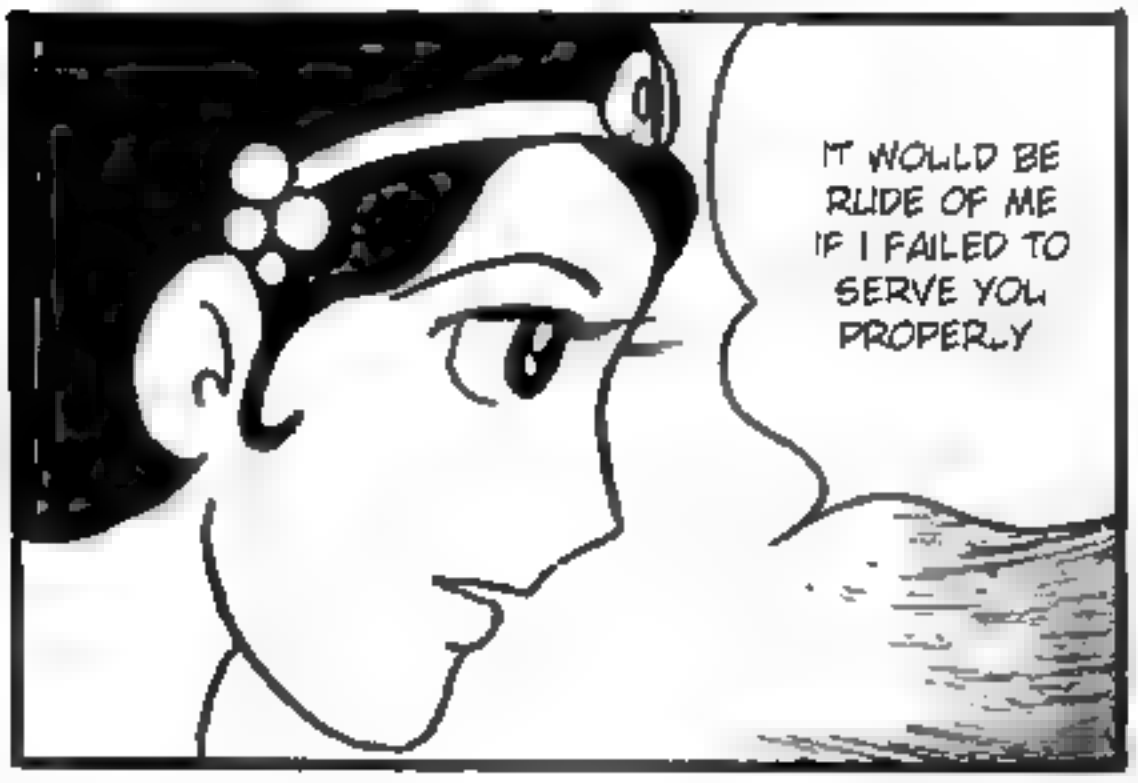
SHE IS MY SISTER-IN-LAW.


AND WHO MIGHT THIS BEAUTIFUL LADY BE?

PARDON ME, I SHOULD BE PAYING RESPECT TO YOU NOW THAT ZHAO FAN AND I ARE BROTHERS.

CARE FOR ANOTHER GLASS, GENERAL?

GO AHEAD, POUR HIM A DRINK.


IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME IF I FAILED TO SERVE YOU PROPERLY

NO, NO. I'VE DRUNK ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.

MY APOLOGIES, BUT I REALLY CAN'T DISREGARD MY DUTIES.

NO, I WOULD NOT LIKE TO TROUBLE HER TOO MUCH.

OF COURSE, I UNDERSTAND. HOW ABOUT SHE PERFORM A DANCE IN YOUR HONOUR THEN?

A PLEASURE TO HAVE MET YOU.

PARDON ME THEN.

THOUGH MY SISTER-IN-LAW IS STILL YOUNG, SHE HAS NOW BEEN WIDOWED FOR 3 YEARS ALREADY. I'VE BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF HER REMARRYING BUT...

AH, YOU MISUNDER-STAND ME.

PARDON ME IN CASE THIS OFFENDS YOU, BUT MIGHT I ASK WHY YOU'RE TREATING YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW AS A SERVANT GIRL?

SHE REQUIRES THREE VERY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FROM HER NEW HUSBAND. ONE, HE MUST BE A MAN ALREADY WELL-RESPECTED BY THE WORLD. TWO, HE MUST ALREADY HAVE THE SAME FAMILY NAME OF "ZHAO." THREE, HE MUST POSSESS BOTH LITERARY GRACE AND MARTIAL PROWESS.

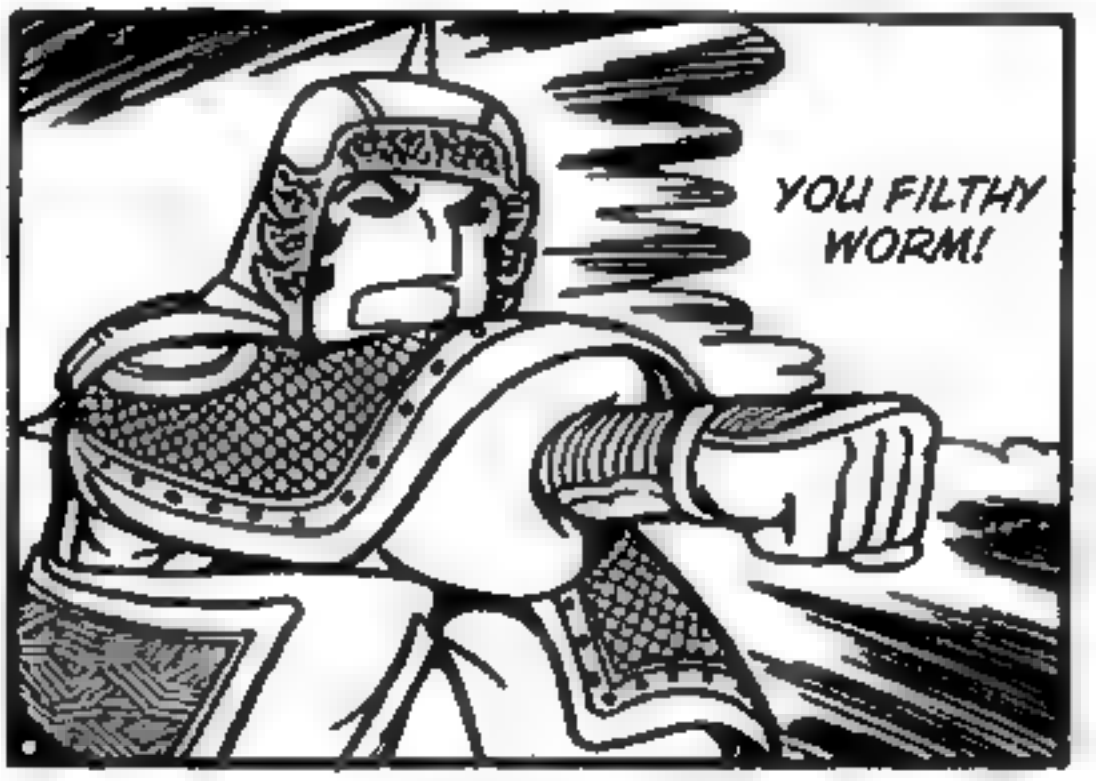
?

SO HOW ABOUT IT, BROTHER?

I SEE.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF SHE KNEW THE VERY DAY WOULD COME WHEN SHE COULD INTRODUCE HERSELF TO A FINE WARRIOR SUCH AS YOURSELF.

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION OF TAKING HER IN AS YOUR WIFE?


YOU FILTHY WORM!

W-WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THIS OUTBURST!?

WHA!? JUST WHAT HAVE I DONE!?

YOU SICKEN ME.

NOT ONLY DO YOU DISGRACE YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW BY HAVING HER ATTEND TO MEN'S DRINKS, BUT YOU DARE TO HAVE HER MARRY ANOTHER MAN, MUCH LESS YOUR BROTHER! SHE IS NOW MY SISTER AS WELL, YOU FOOL!

GAHHH!

YOU STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED THE VILE TRANSGRESSION YOU'VE COMMITTED!?

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

NO, I WAS ONLY ACTING OUT OF MY BEST INTEN-TIONS...!

NOT ONLY THAT, HE INSULTS ME WHEN I'VE BEEN ONLY PLAYING THE PART OF THE GRACIOUS HOST!?

HOW DARE HE HIT ME...

CHEN YING AND BAO LONG!

MY LORD, WE SAW WHAT HAPPENED.

YES BUT IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY TO WIN...

I BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT.

YOU HAVE A PLAN?

IF WE USE CUNNING AND STRATEGY, EVEN ZHAO ZILONG IS NO THREAT.

WE WILL GO OVER TO ZHAO ZILONG'S CAMPS PRETENDING TO BE DESERTERS. AT NIGHT, MY LORD SHOULD CONDUCT A SURPRISE RAID, WHICH WILL THEN PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO ATTACK FROM WITHIN AND TAKE HIS HEAD.

FINE, THEN LET'S DO AS YOU SAY!

YES, I ASSURE YOU.

WILL IT REALLY GO SO WELL...?

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SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY...

CHEN YING AND BAO LONG ARE HERE WITH 500 SOLDIERS?

YES, SIR.

FINE, LET THEM IN.

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

YES, I KNOW.
AND I, BAO LONG.
I AM CHEN YING,

WE WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR.

ZHAO FAN WAS ACTUALLY ONLY USING HIS SISTER-IN-LAW AS BAIT TO LURE YOU INTO HER INNER CHAMBERS, WHERE HIS GUARDS WERE WAITING TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD AND PRESENT IT TO CHANCELLOR CAO CAO.

THE TWO OF US WERE WORRIED IF THIS MIGHT NOT REIGNITE THE WAR, WHICH WOULD ONLY LEAD TO OUR DEATHS. AND SO, WE'VE BROUGHT 500 MEN ALONG TO SURRENDER TO YOU IN ADVANCE.

BUT OF COURSE, THE PLAN FAILED WITH YOU LEAVING FURIOUS.

YES, SIR.

TREAT THESE TWO TO DRINKS IN ORDER TO THANK THEM.

I SEE. THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME ALL THIS.

THIS WAY, SIRS.

BUT WE'LL SOON KNOW THE TRUTH FOR SURE.

NO,

DO YOU BELIEVE THEIR WORDS, GENERAL?

LISTEN UP, MEN. THESE TWO ARE GUIYANG'S RENOWNED WARRIORS, CHEN YING AND BAO LONG. THEY ARE NOW ON OUR SIDE SO LET US CELEBRATE WITH A DRINK!

I AM OVERJOYED TO MEET YOU SIRS. COULD I PERHAPS HAVE THE HONOUR OF HAVING A DRINK POURED BY YOU?

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO POUR YOU A DRINK AS WELL.

I'M TRULY HONOURED!

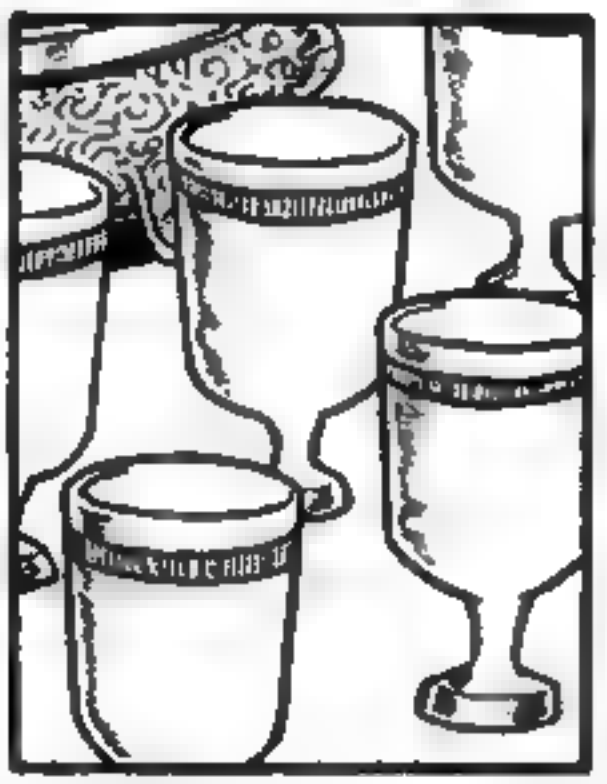
CLAP CLAP

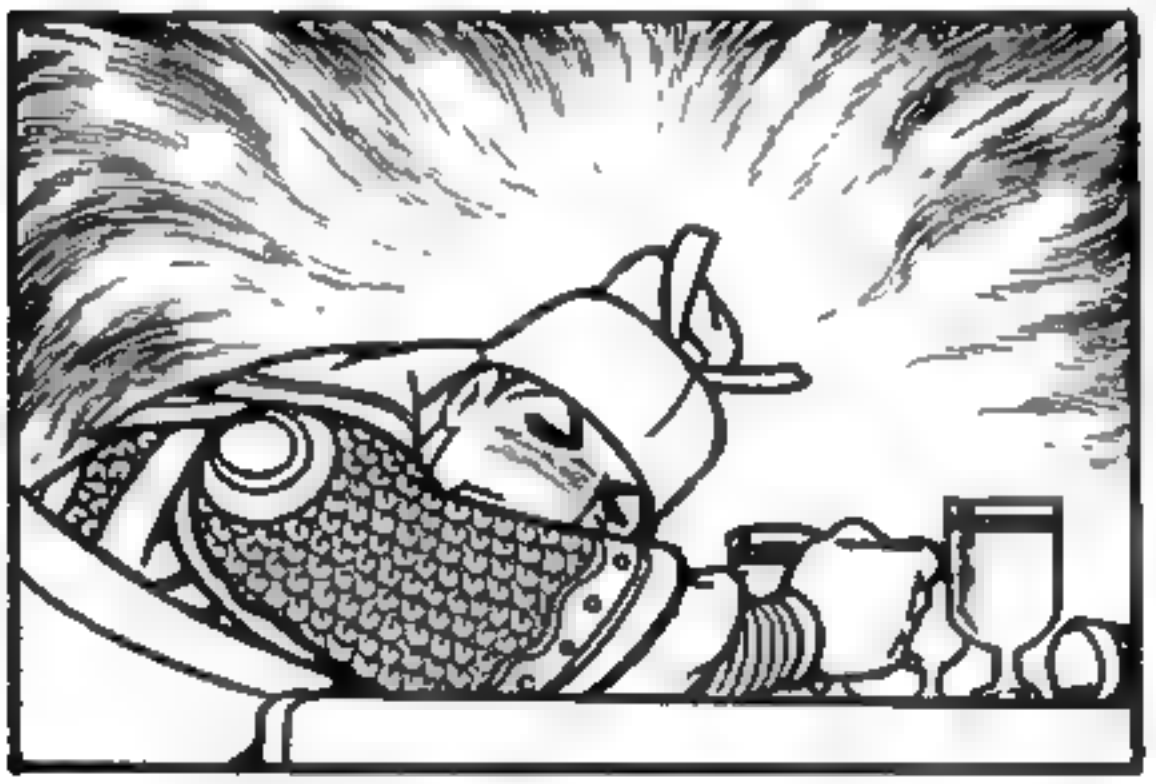
CLAP CLAP CLAP

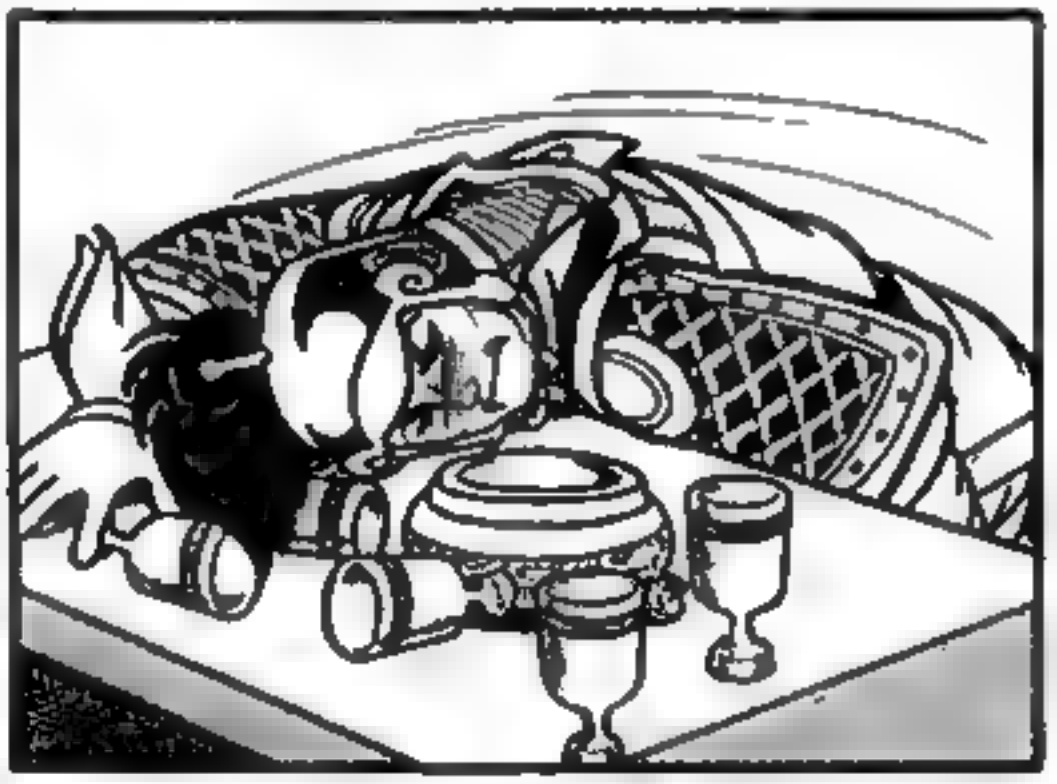
I AS WELL.

COULD I ASK THE SAME?

MNN...

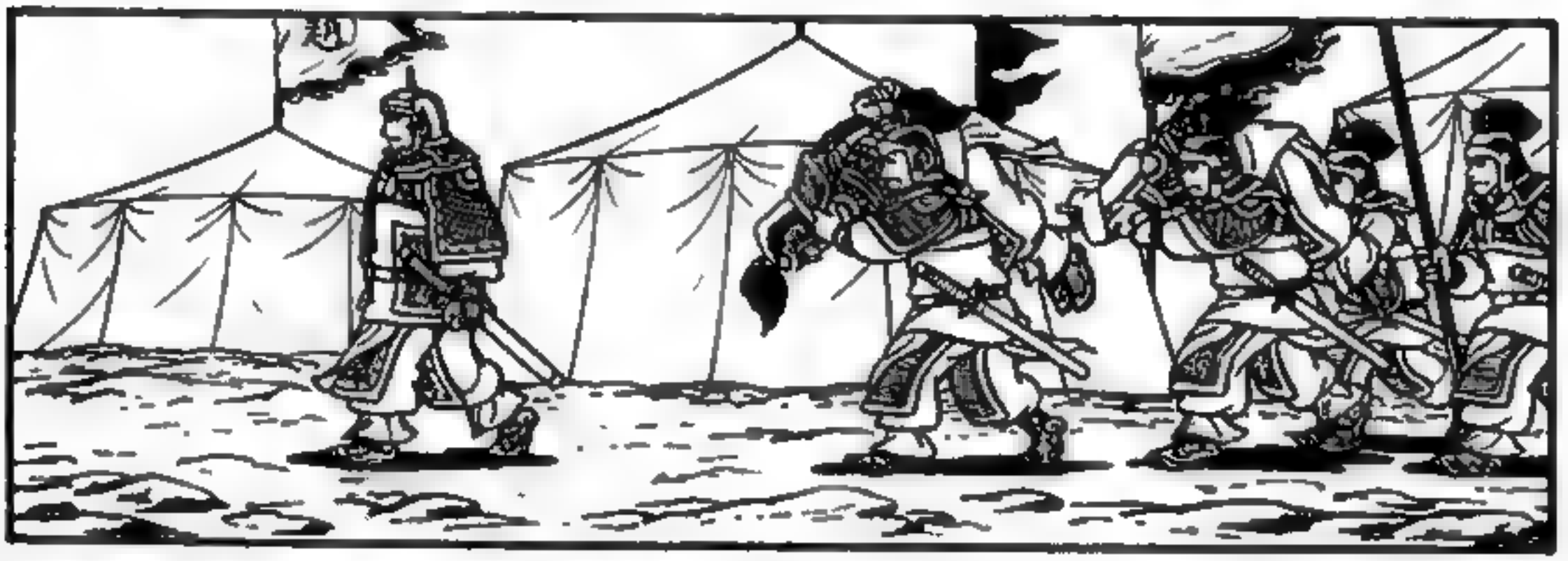


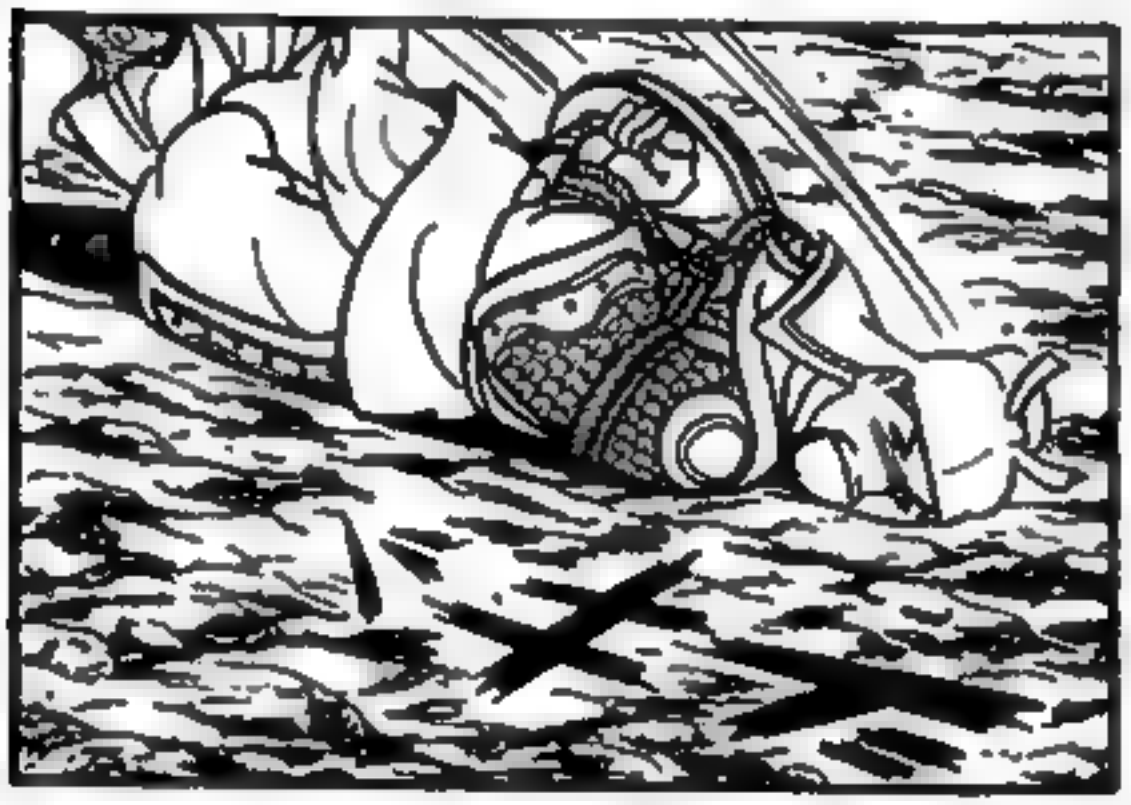




TIE THEM UP!

BRING THEM OUT.





YOUR LEADERS HAVE CONFESSED TO EVERYTHING AFTER BECOMING HEAVILY INTOXICATED.

AND GENERAL BAO LONG!
GENERAL CHEN YING!
AHH!

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED...

AGHH!

NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO?

WE KNEW THAT THE PLAN TO ATTACK THIS BASE FROM WITHIN WHEN OUR LORD ATTACKS FROM OUTSIDE TONIGHT WAS A DANGEROUS MISSION FOR US BUT...

W-WE WERE ONLY ACTING ON ORDERS.

SO WILL YOU TRULY SURRENDER THIS TIME?

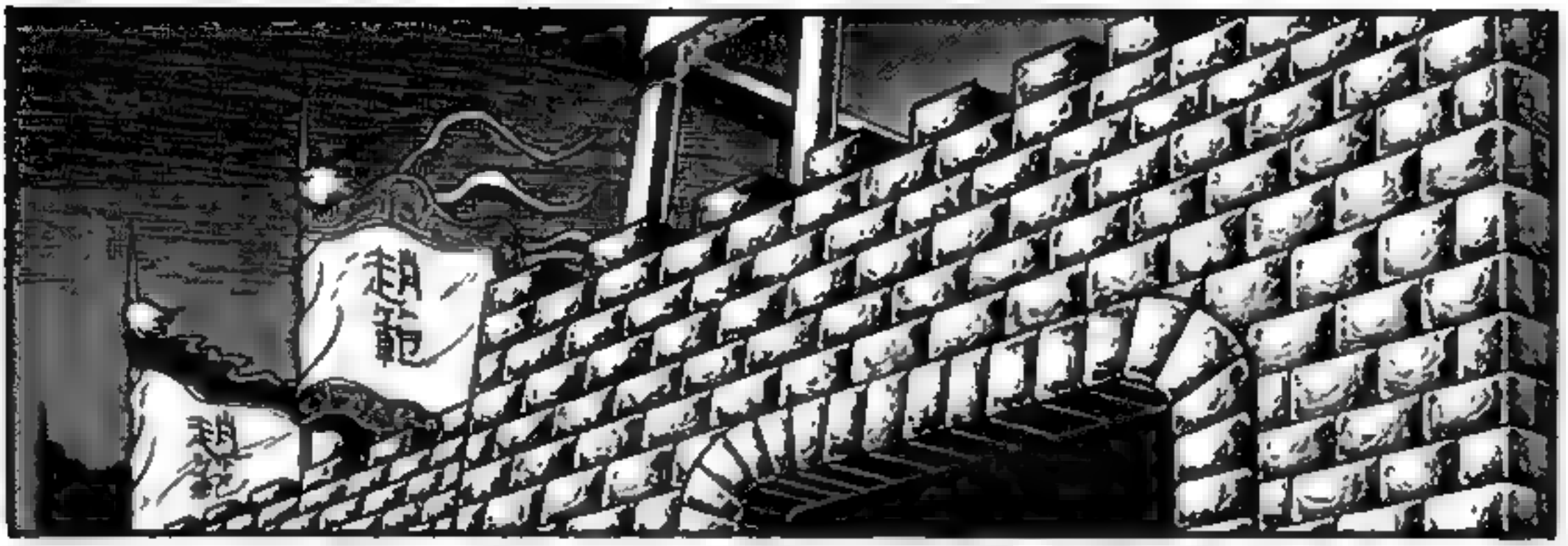
WE HAD NO CHOICE! PLEASE SPARE OUR LIVES, GENERAL!

FINE, I SHALL SPARE YOUR LIVES.

YES, WE PROMISE!

CUT OFF CHEN YING AND BAO LONG'S HEADS!

WE WILL NOW GO TAKE GUIYANG!



*FLAGS READ CHEN AND BAO

WHAT!?

PERHAPS THE PLAN WORKED BETTER THAN I THOUGHT AND THEY ALREADY TOOK ZHAO ZILONG'S HEAD.

AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
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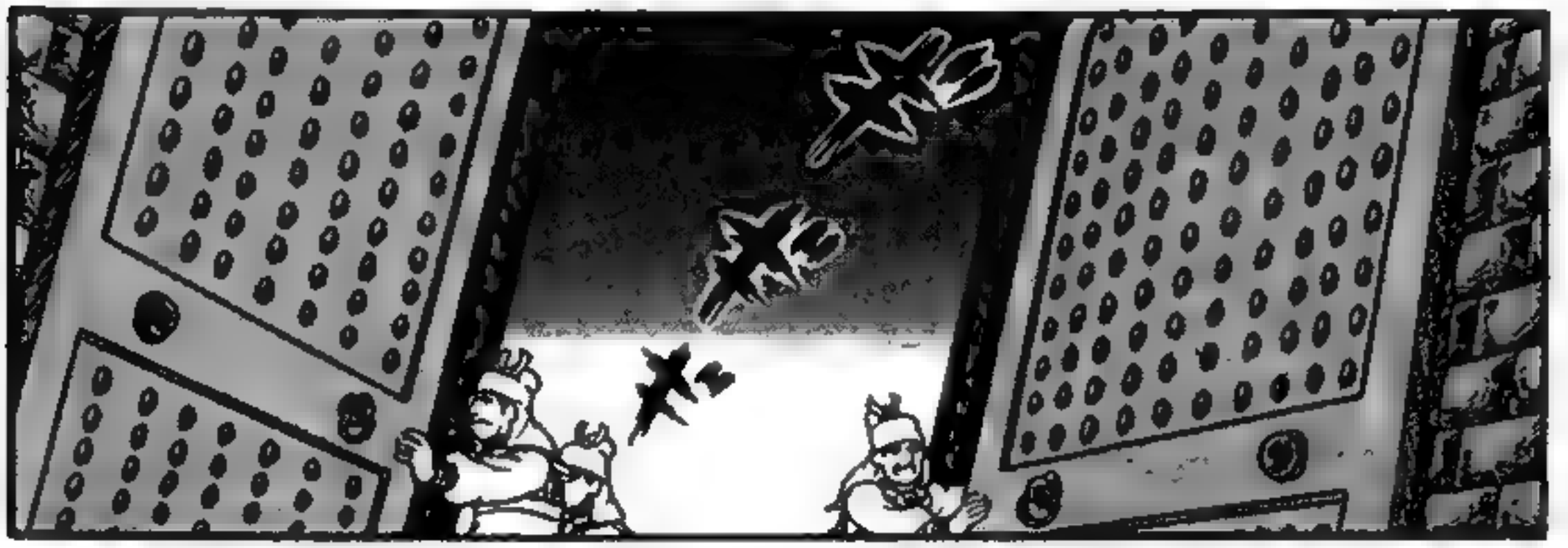
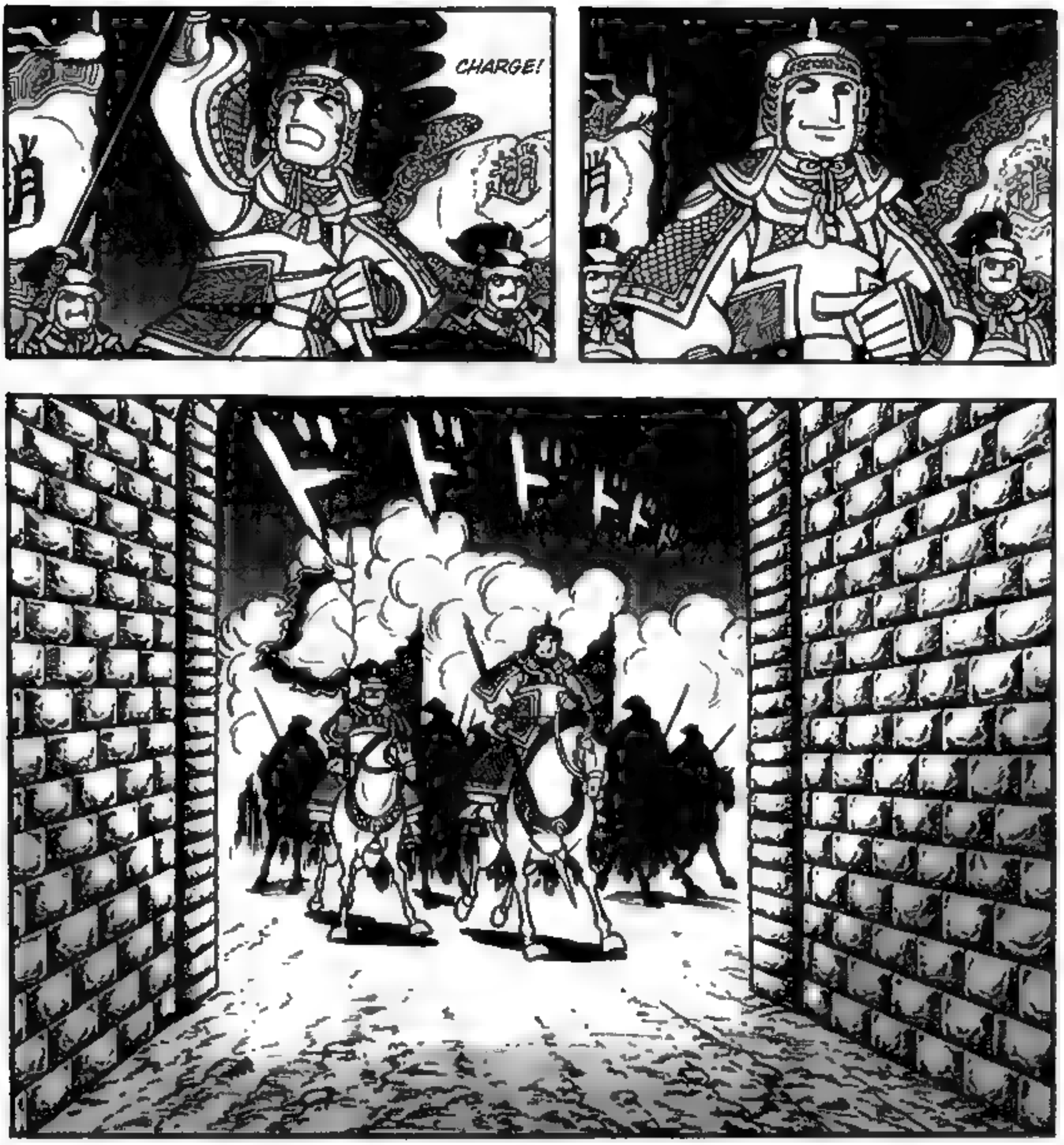



CHARGE!

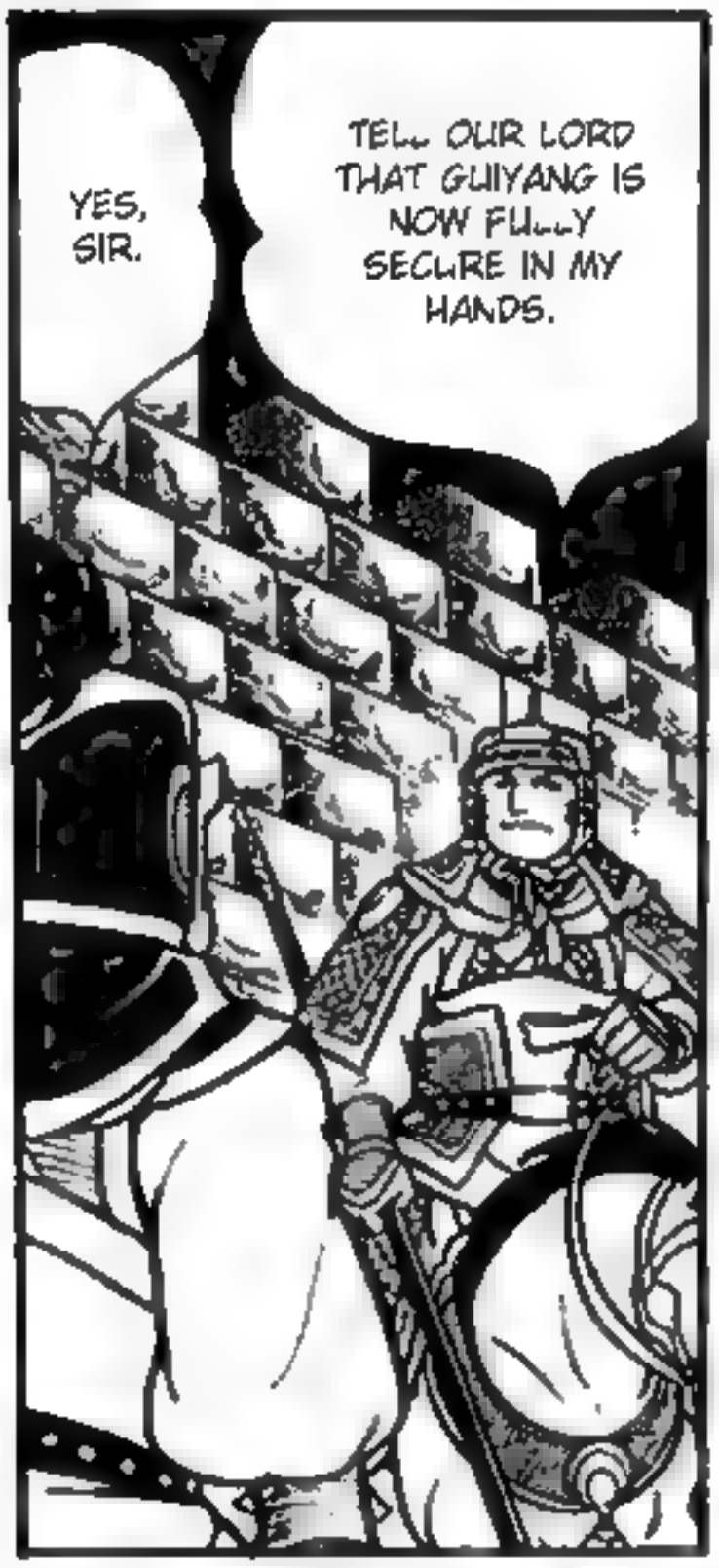
WHA!?
?
HMM?

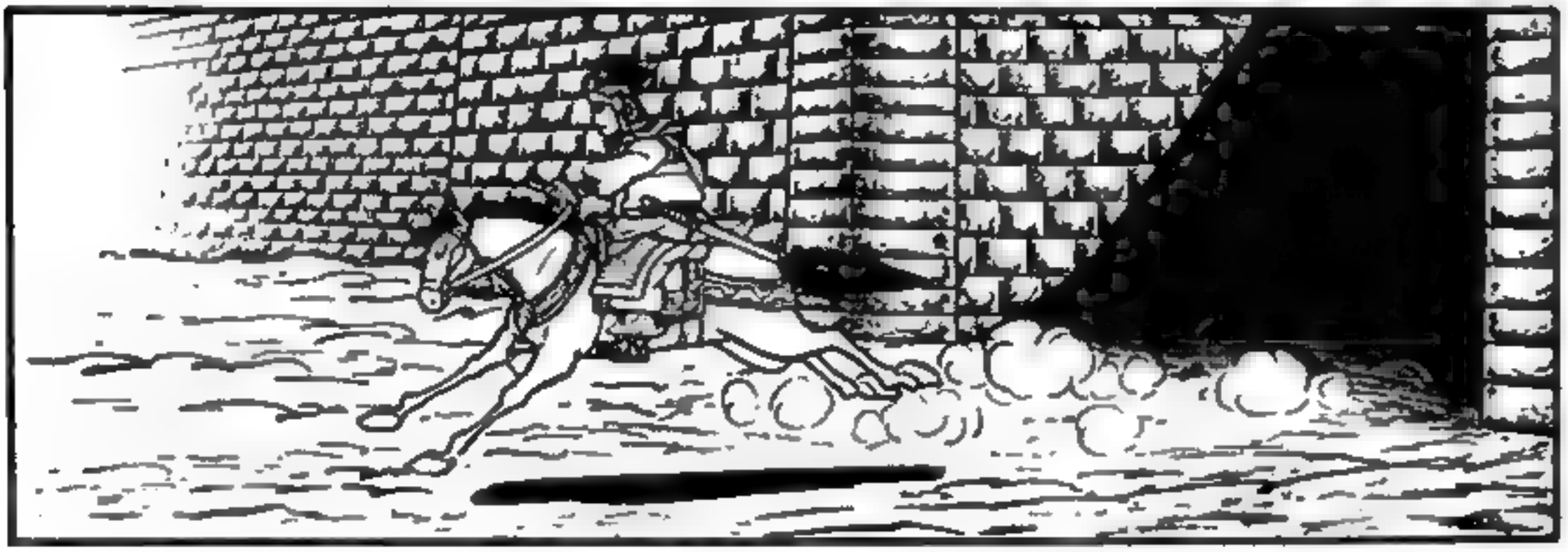
I HAVE TO HIDE QUICKLY!

AGHH!

AGHH!
DON'T RUN AWAY FROM A FIGHT YOU STARTED, ZHAO FAN.

TIE HIM UP!


YES, SIR.
TELL OUR LORD THAT GUIYANG IS NOW FULLY SECURE IN MY HANDS.



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I TRULY NEVER INTENDED TO RESIST AGAINST SIR FROM THE BEGINNING.

I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHY I HAVE TO SUFFER THROUGH THIS PAIN AND HUMILIATION WHEN I TRIED TO BE AS GRACIOUS AS POSSIBLE.

ALL THIS TROUBLE WAS BECAUSE I OFFERED ZHAO ZILONG IF HE WOULD LIKE TO MARRY MY WIDOWED SISTER-IN-LAW, WHICH ANGERED HIM FOR REASONS I STILL CANNOT QUITE FULLY COMPREHEND.

UNDERSTOOD. NOW PLEASE EXCUSE YOURSELF SO I MAY DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN PRIVATE BEFORE I REACH A FINAL DECISION.

YES, MY LORD.

ZHAO ZILONG, IS WHAT ZHAO FAN JUST SAID THE TRUTH?

I DID NOT REFUSE BECAUSE I DISLIKED HOW SHE LOOKED.

WHY DID YOU REFUSE THE OFFER SO ANGRILY WHEN I HEAR THIS WOMAN IS AN EXTRAORDINARY BEAUTY?

I REFUSED BECAUSE ONE, HAVING SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD, SHE WAS NOW MY SISTER AS WELL. TWO, BY MARRYING HER, I WOULD FAIL IN MY DUTY TO KEEP MY SISTER'S CHASTITY AS A WIDOW. LAST AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WOULD THE WORLD SAY IF THEY HEAR I MARRIED GOVERNOR OF GUIYANG'S SISTER-IN-LAW AFTER CAPTURING GUIYANG?

MY LORD'S VIRTUE IS NOT TOO WELL-KNOWN IN THESE REMOTE PARTS.

THEY WOLD WHISPER AMONGST THEMSELVES THAT I HAD TAKEN THE WOMAN BY BRUTE FORCE.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ALIENATE THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS, ESPECIALLY IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES.

SO FOR ME, YOUR SUBORDINATE, TO ACT IN A SUSPICIOUS MANNER TO CALL UPON SLANDER, WOULD ONLY INVITE SIMILAR SLANDER AND CRITICISM TO MY LORD AS WELL. THIS IS AN UNTHINKABLE SIN FOR A PROPER RETAINER.

WOULD YOU STILL CARE TO MARRY THIS WOMAN?

BUT NOW THAT GUIYANG'S PEOPLE HAVE ACCEPTED MY RULE,

I SEE.

YOU STILL REFUSE? MAY I ASK WHY?

I MUST DECLINE.

I SEE.

A WARRIOR CAN STILL FULFILL HIS DUTIES EVEN WITHOUT A WIFE. MY TRUE FEAR IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH MY SERVICE TO YOU. AS SUCH, I SHALL PUT ASIDE ANY THOUGHTS ABOUT FAMILY FOR THE TIME BEING.

THEN I SHAN'T PESTER YOU ANYMORE. NOW TAKE A REST AFTER YOUR HARD WORK IN CAPTURING GUIYANG.

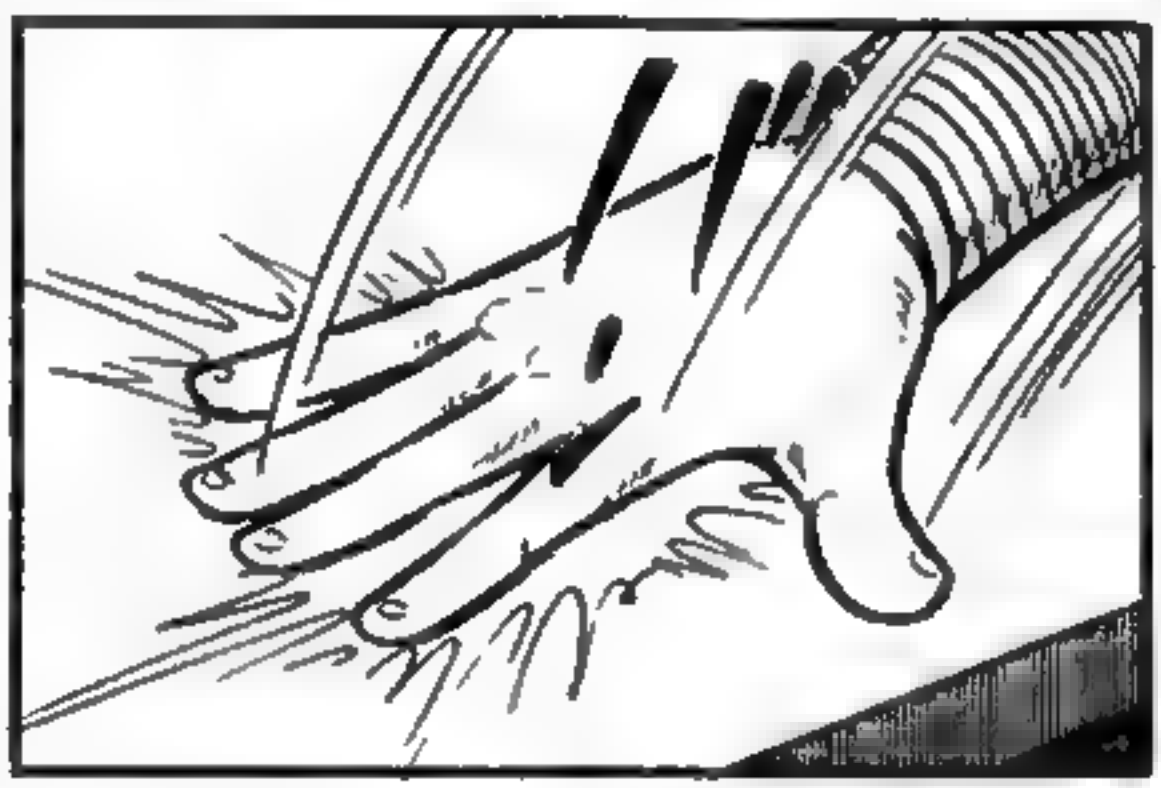
TRULY.

A TRUE WARRIOR, THROUGH AND THROUGH, ISN'T HE?

LIU BEI HAD NOW CONQUERED TWO COMMANDERIES IN NO TIME, AND HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE CONTINUED TO GROW BY DAY.

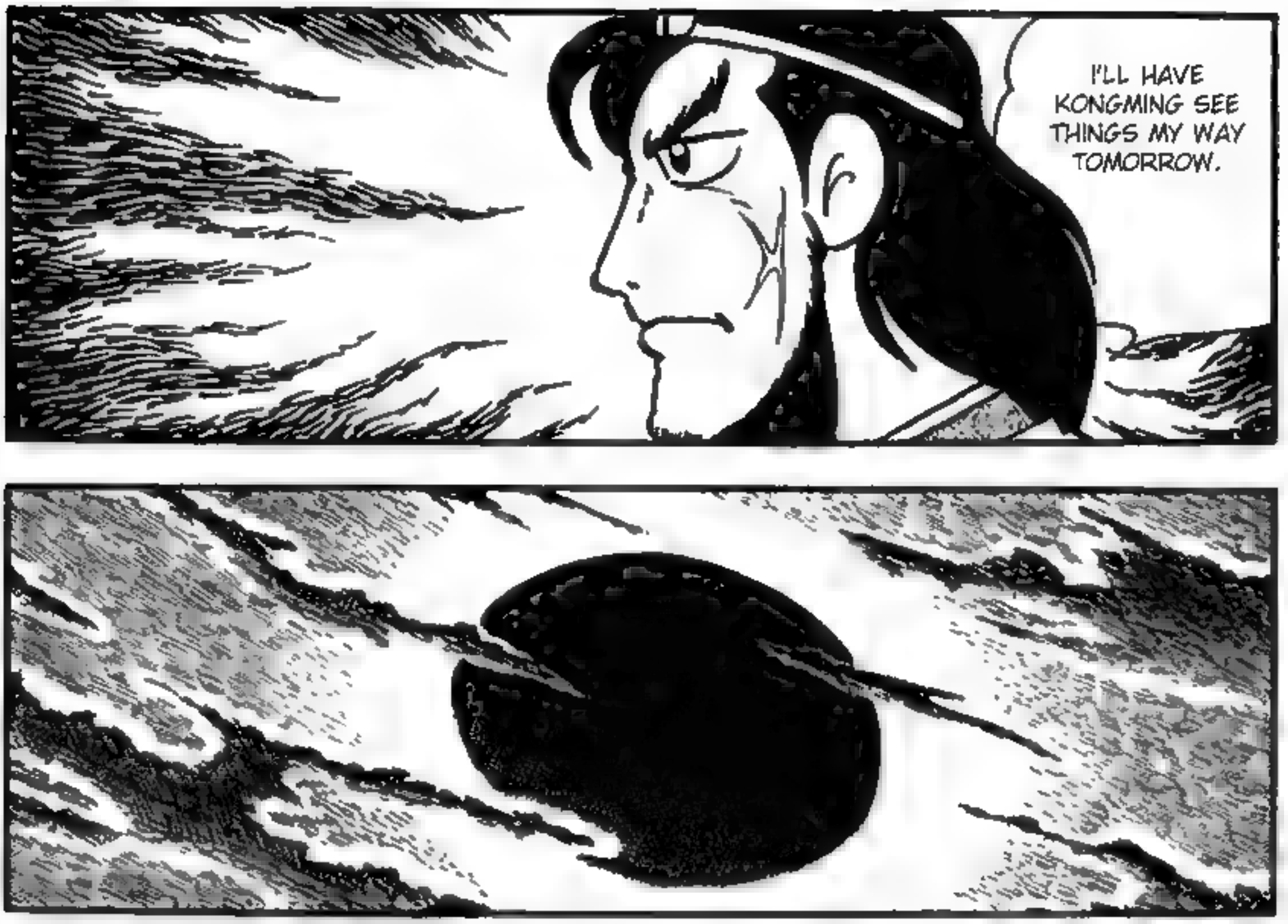
ZHANG FEI CAPTURES WULING

MNN...



AIN'T NO WAY I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS ANY LONGER.

THIS IS JUST GETTING ON MY NERVES NOW. ZHAO ZILONG'S OUT THERE GETTING ALL THE GLORY WHILE ALL I CAN DO IS STAY INSIDE AND DRINK...


I'LL HAVE KONGMING SEE THINGS MY WAY TOMORROW.

I'D LIKE TO ASK WHAT EXACTLY YOUR INTENTIONS WITH ME ARE, KONGMING. YOU LET ZHAO ZILONG FIGHT AS MUCH HE WANTS OUT THERE WHILE I SIT HERE TWIDDLING MY THUMBS?

I UNDER-STAND YOUR COM-PLAINTS.

DO I LOOK MORE LIKE SOME HOUSE SERVANT THAN A WARRIOR?

HA, NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

R-REALLY!?

I SHALL THEN ASSIGN THE TASK OF CAPTURING WULING TO YOU.

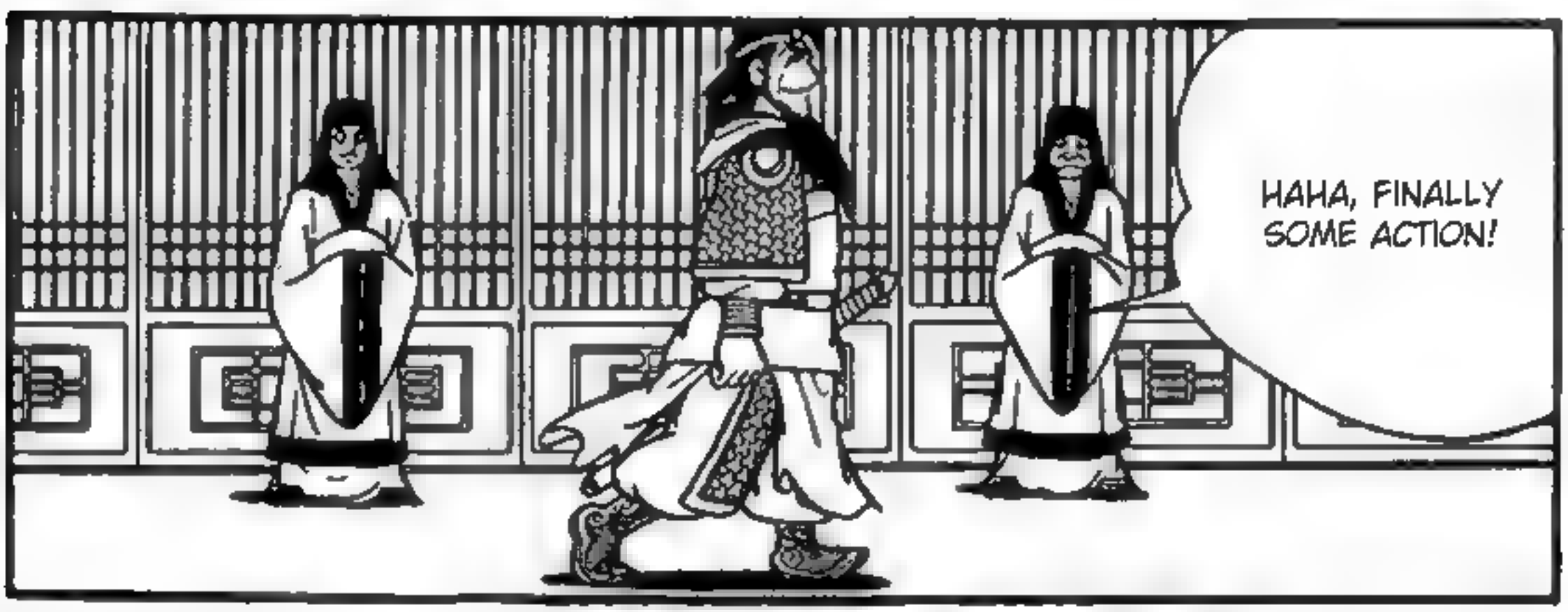
GIVEN THAT CONFIDENCE, I ASSUME YOU WON'T FAIL...?

CAN YOU SWEAR ON THAT?

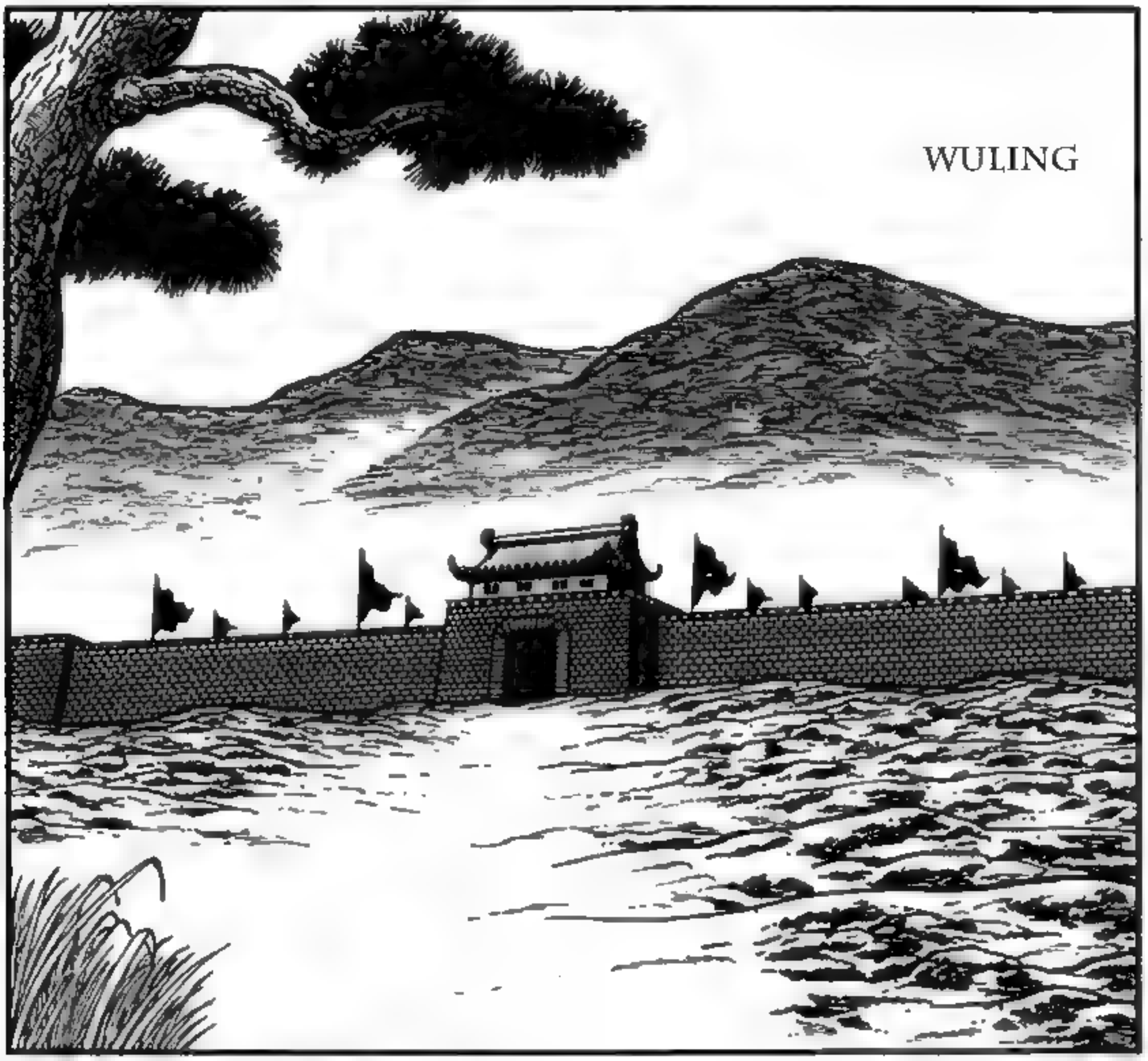
FAIL!? WHO ME? ZHANG FEI YIDE!? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! IF I FAIL, I'D GLADLY GIVE YOU MY HEAD.

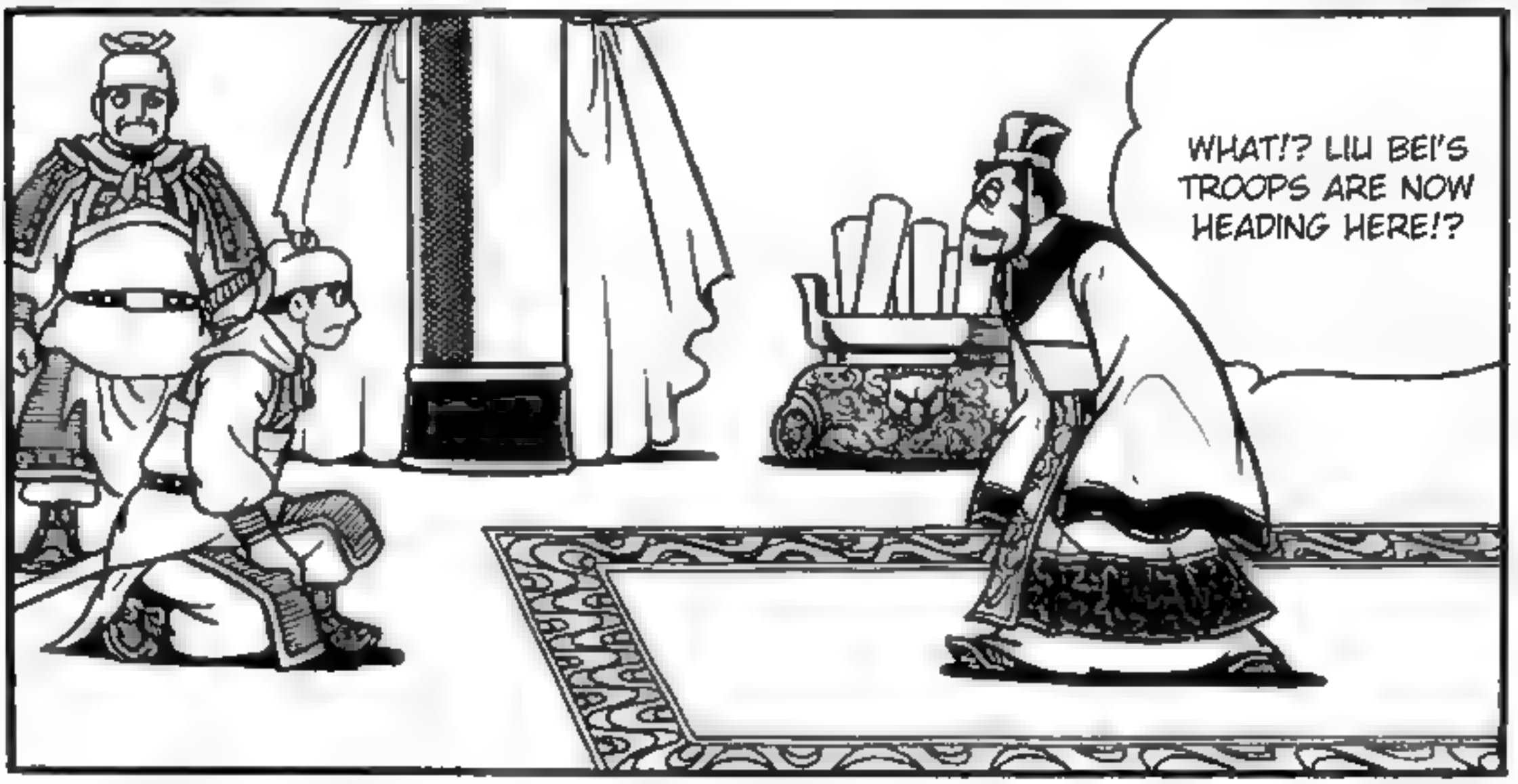
THEN YOU MAY TAKE 3000 SOLDIERS AND DEPART.

'COURSE!


HAHA, FINALLY SOME ACTION!

ZHANG FEI MARCHED TO WULING, ALMOST GIDDY WITH GLEE.


WULING


WHAT!? LIU BEI'S TROOPS ARE NOW HEADING HERE!?

IT'S... NONE OTHER THAN ZHANG FEI!

AND WHO'S THEIR COMMANDER THIS TIME?

ZHANG FEI?

ZHANG FEI?

YES, MY LORD...

YOU MEAN THE SAME ZHANG FEI WHO SUPPOSEDLY HELF OFF CAO CAO'S ENTIRE ARMY SINGLE-HANDEDLY AT CHANGBAN BRIDGE!?

MOBILIZE OUR ARMY IMMEDIATELY AND HAVE THEM SET UP BASE 20 LI AWAY FROM THE CITY WHERE IT'S MORE SUITABLE TO MEET THEM HEAD-ON!

LIU BEI'S VIRTUE AND IMPERIAL LINEAGE IS NOW KNOWN EVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF WULING. FURTHERMORE, THE GENERAL HE SENT OUT IS ZHANG FEI, WHOSE NAME ALONE CAUSES MANY TO TREMBLE. AS SUCH, I BELIEVE THIS MIGHT BE A POINTLESS WAR WE'RE TRYING TO FIGHT.

WHAT IS IT, GONG ZHI?

GOVERNOR JIN XUAN, I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY.

HAVE YOU ALREADY GROWN SCARED BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN!?

WHAT!?

THE OUTCOME ALREADY SEEM CLEAR WITHOUT SHEDDING POINT-LESS BLOOD.

THE ARMY YOU ARE TRYING TO FIGHT IS THE SAME ONE THAT CRUSHED CAO CAO'S MILLION-MAN ARMY. AN ARMY THAT CONQUERED BOTH LINGLING AND GUIYANG IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

THIS IS NOT MY COWARDICE SPEAKING, SIR. IT IS MY CONCERN FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF WULING'S PEOPLE AND LANDS.

SILENCE! MY ONE AND ONLY LORD IS CHANCELLOR CAO CAO! YOU DARE ASK ME TO BECOME A TRAITOROUS REBEL!?

NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! I ONLY SPEAK OUT OF THE CONCERN OF OUR PEOPLE.

I SEE HOW IT IS NOW! YOU MUST HAVE ALREADY SOLD YOURSELF OUT TO LIU BEI!

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! SOMEBODY DRAG THIS TRAITOR AWAY AND CUT OFF HIS HEAD!

GONG ZHI MERELY STATED HIS OPINION, WHICH IS PART OF HIS DUTY AND JOB. TO EXECUTE HIM FOR THAT ALONE IS FAR TOO RASH.

GOVERNOR!

FINE, I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE BUT YOU'RE HEREBY DISMISSED!

NGHH...

WE BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER, GOVERNOR. IT WOULD BE INAUSPICIOUS TO KILL YOUR OWN OFFICER BEFORE BATTLE

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU OFFICERS, MOVE OUT FOR BATTLE!

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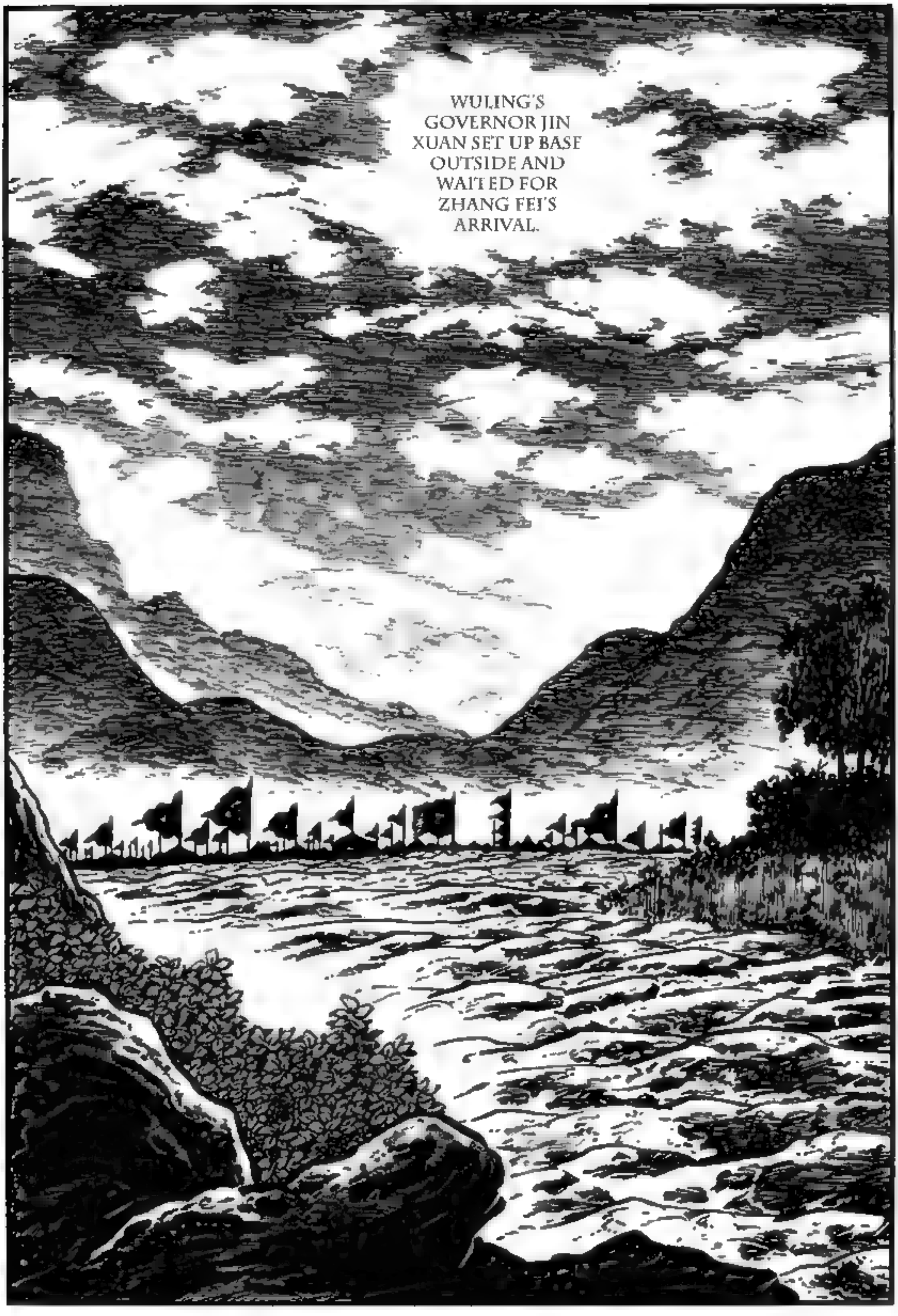
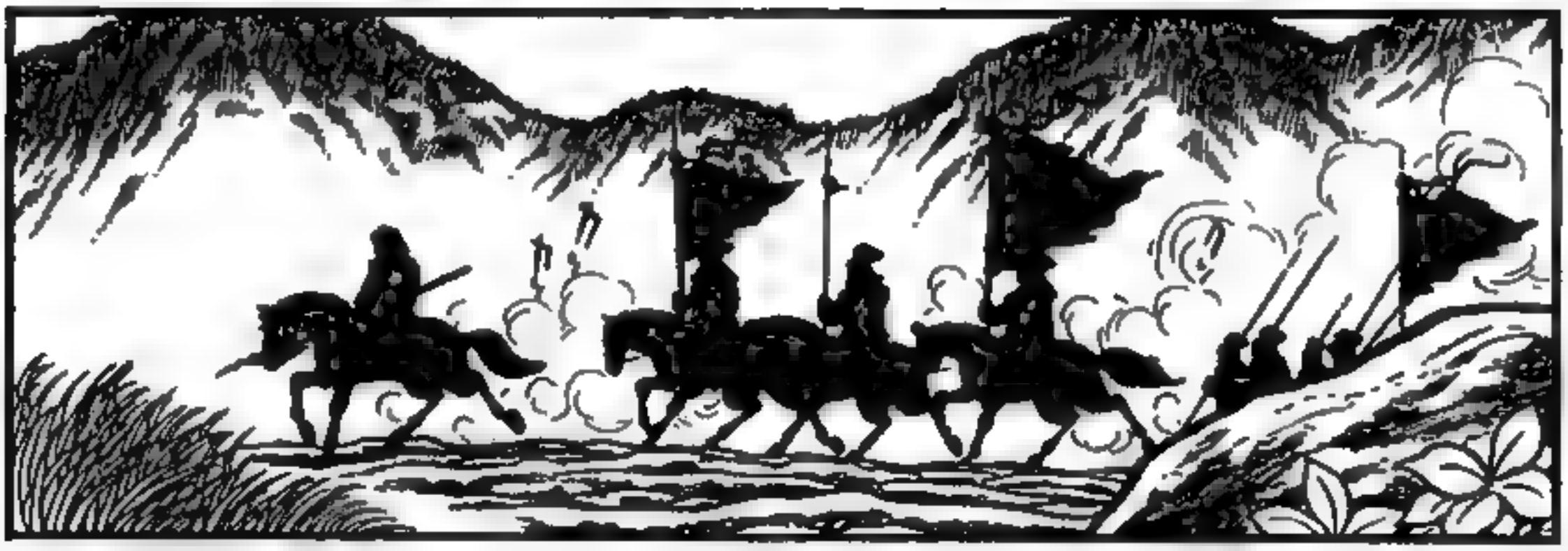
WITHOUT HEEDING GONG ZHI'S ADVICE...


WULING'S
GOVERNOR JIN
XUAN SET UP BASE
OUTSIDE AND
WAITED FOR
ZHANG FEI'S
ARRIVAL.



LOOKS LIKE WULING'S ARMY IS WAITING FOR US AHEAD.

LET'S NOT KEEP OUR HOSTS WAITING, MEN!

GOOD, GOOD... IT WOULD BE FAR TOO BORING IF THEY JUST SURRENDERED.

FOLLOW MY LEAD!

SO THEY'VE COME..

THE ENEMIES ARE ATTACKING, GOVERNOR!

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LET US SHOW THEM WULING'S MIGHT!

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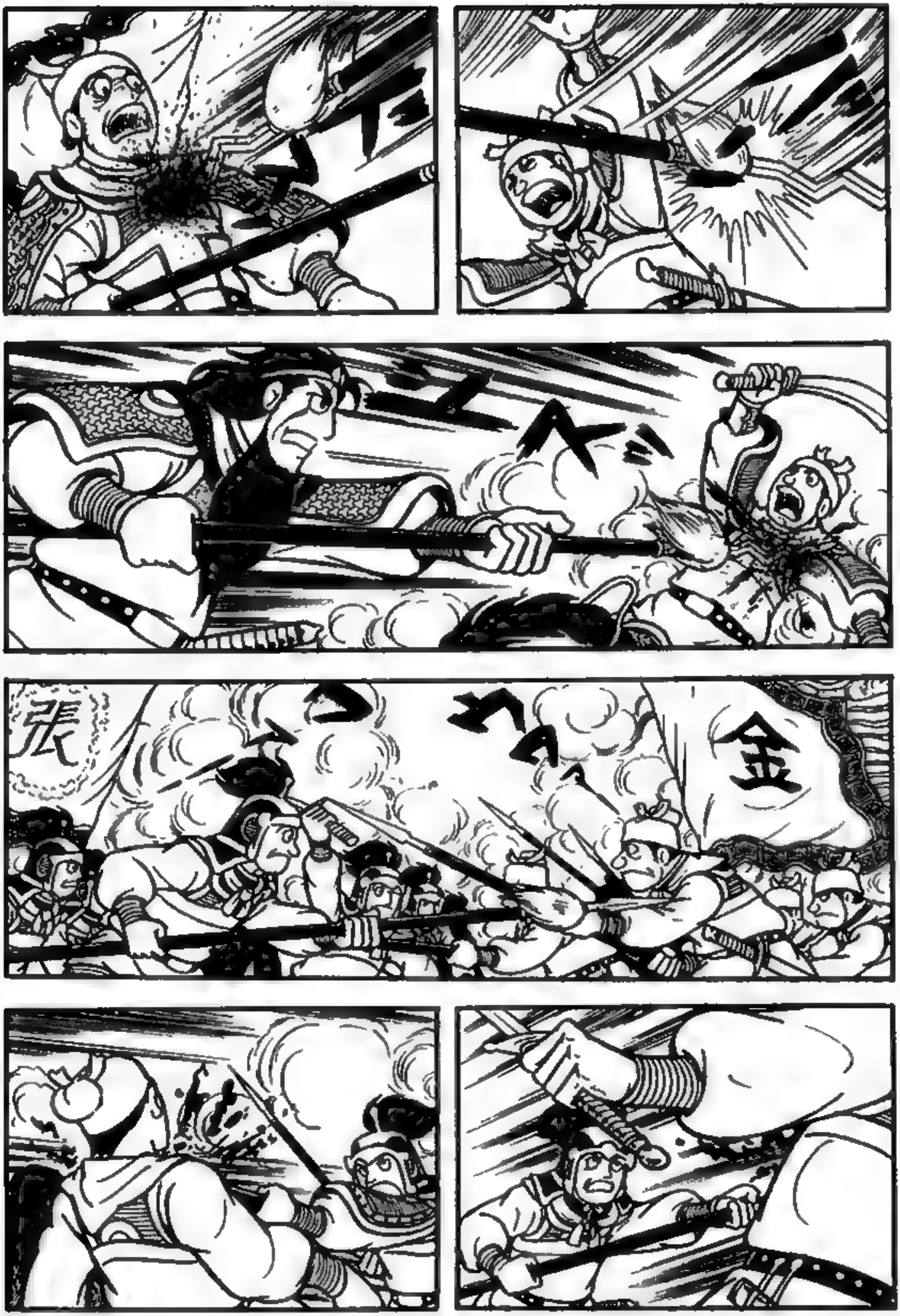
TIME TO RELEASE ALL THAT PENT UP STRESS AND ENERGY AFTER BEING SHUT IN FOR SO LONG!



I SAID CLEAR THE WAY!

CLEAR THE WAY!

SO BE IT THEN!

AGHH!

CONSIDER YOUR LIVES FORFEIT IF YOU DARE RETREAT!

THOSE PATHETIC WRETCHES...

SIR, OUR FORCES OUR STARTING TO BE PUSHED BACK.

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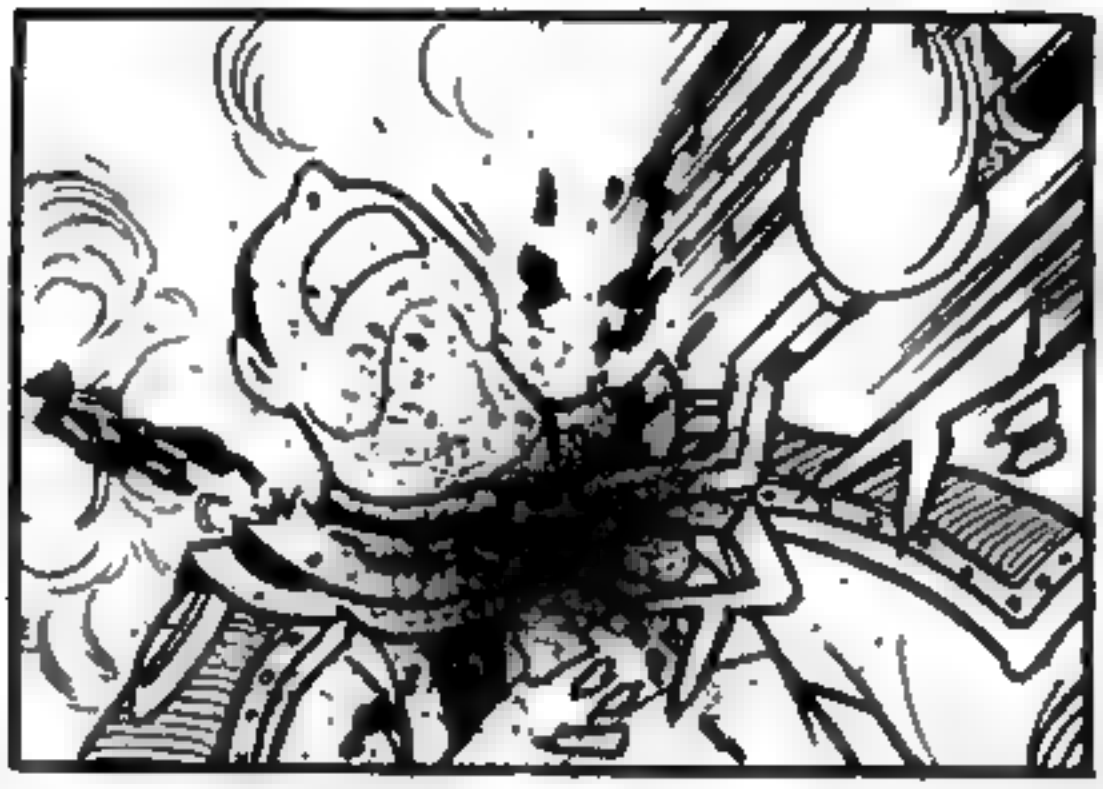
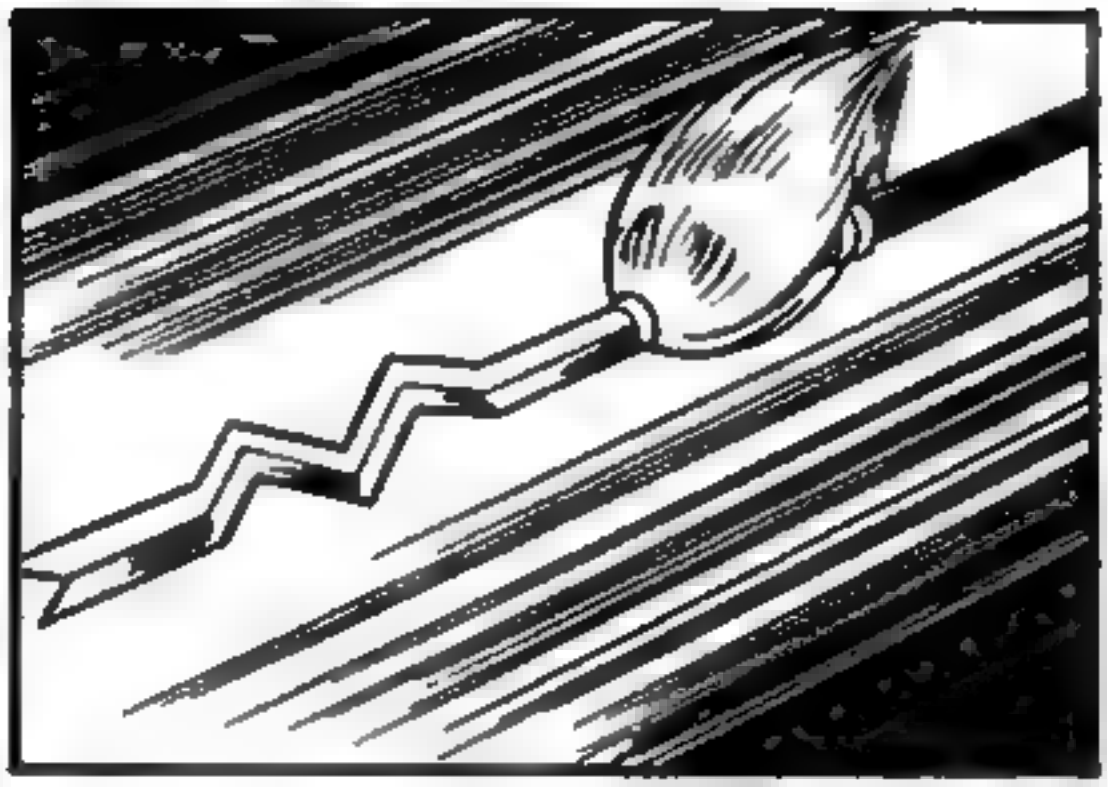
DAMN COCK-ROACHES!

STILL WON'T GIVE UP!?





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HMM?

HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE DUEL WITH ME...?

YOU MUST BE THE ENEMY COMMANDER, AM I RIGHT?

T-THAT'S... ZHANG FEI?

GAHH!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! ATTACK HIM AT ONCE!

YOU ARROW FODDER BETTER PISS OFF IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

AHHH!

ACK!

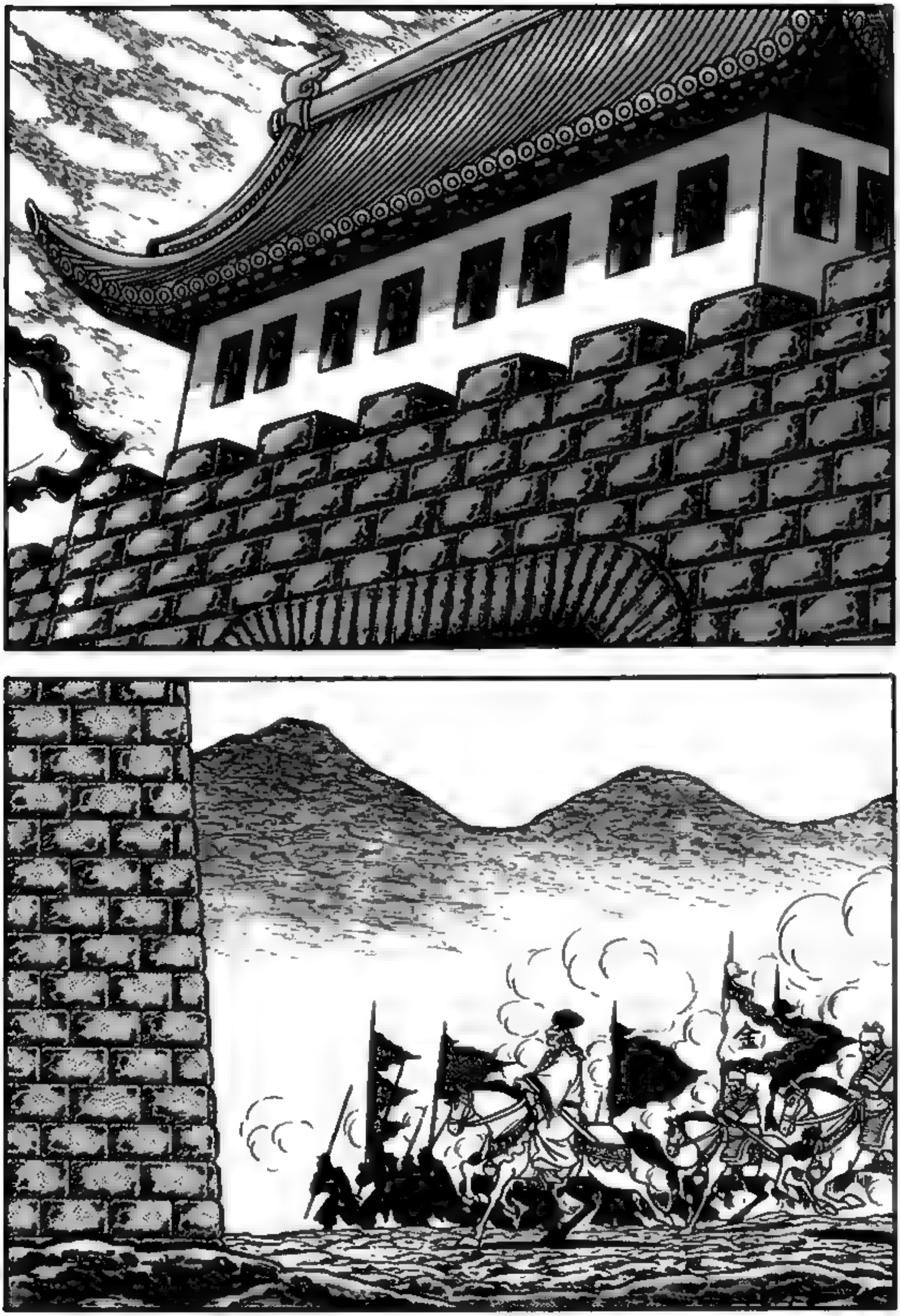
RETREAT! RETREAT!

R-RIGHT...

SIR, THE TIDES HAVE CLEARY SWUNG IN THE ENEMY'S FAVOUR. WE SHOULD RETREAT BACK TO THE CITY FOR THE TIME BEING.

JIN XUAN'S TROOPS SCATTERED LIKE ASHES IN THE WIND.

ALL THOUGHTS ABOUT HONOUR OR VALOUR INSTANTLY VANISHED FROM THEIR MINDS AS THEY FLED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IT IS I, JIN XUAN, YOUR GOVERNOR! OPEN THE GATES!

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME!? I SAID OPEN THE GATES!

HM!?

WHAT!?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT, GOVERNOR.

YOU STUBBORNLY REFUSED TO LISTEN TO MY ADVICE AND HAVE WASTED THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS. AND FOR WHAT? WHAT HAVE YOU ACCOMPLISHED WITH ALL THE BLOOD YOU'VE SPILLED?

WHAT!

AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, THE REMAINING CITIZENS OF WULING AND I HAVE DECIDED TO SUBMIT TO LIU BEI.

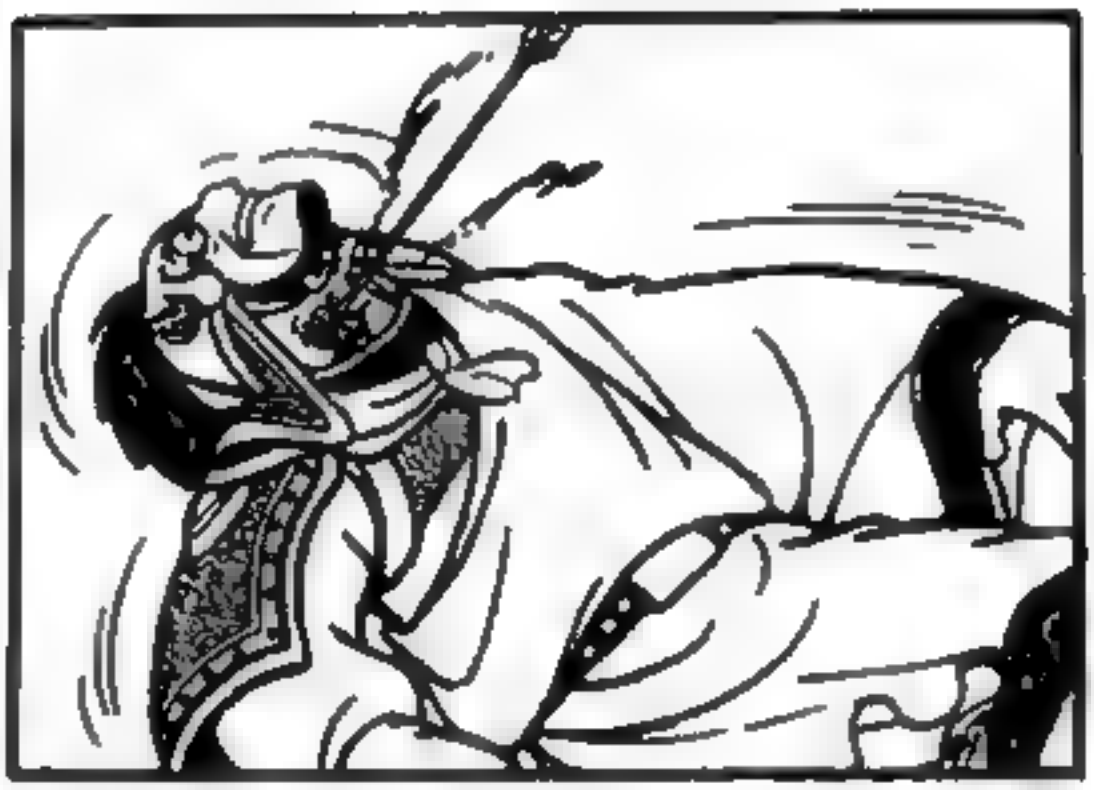
YOU THINK I'D ALLOW SUCH HEINOUS TREASON!?

SOMEBODY KILL THAT REBEL!

ALLOW!? YOU MISUNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION! YOU'VE IGNORED YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AND CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND THE CURRENT SITUATION! YOU'VE LOST ALL QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A LEADER THAT CAN GIVE OUT ORDERS!

THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE KILLED IS YOU!

YOUR HEAD SHALL BE PROOF OF OUR SINCERITY TO SURRENDER.



IF ANY OF YOU STILL WISH TO FIGHT, THEN YOUR ENEMIES ARE WAITING FOR YOU OUT THERE!

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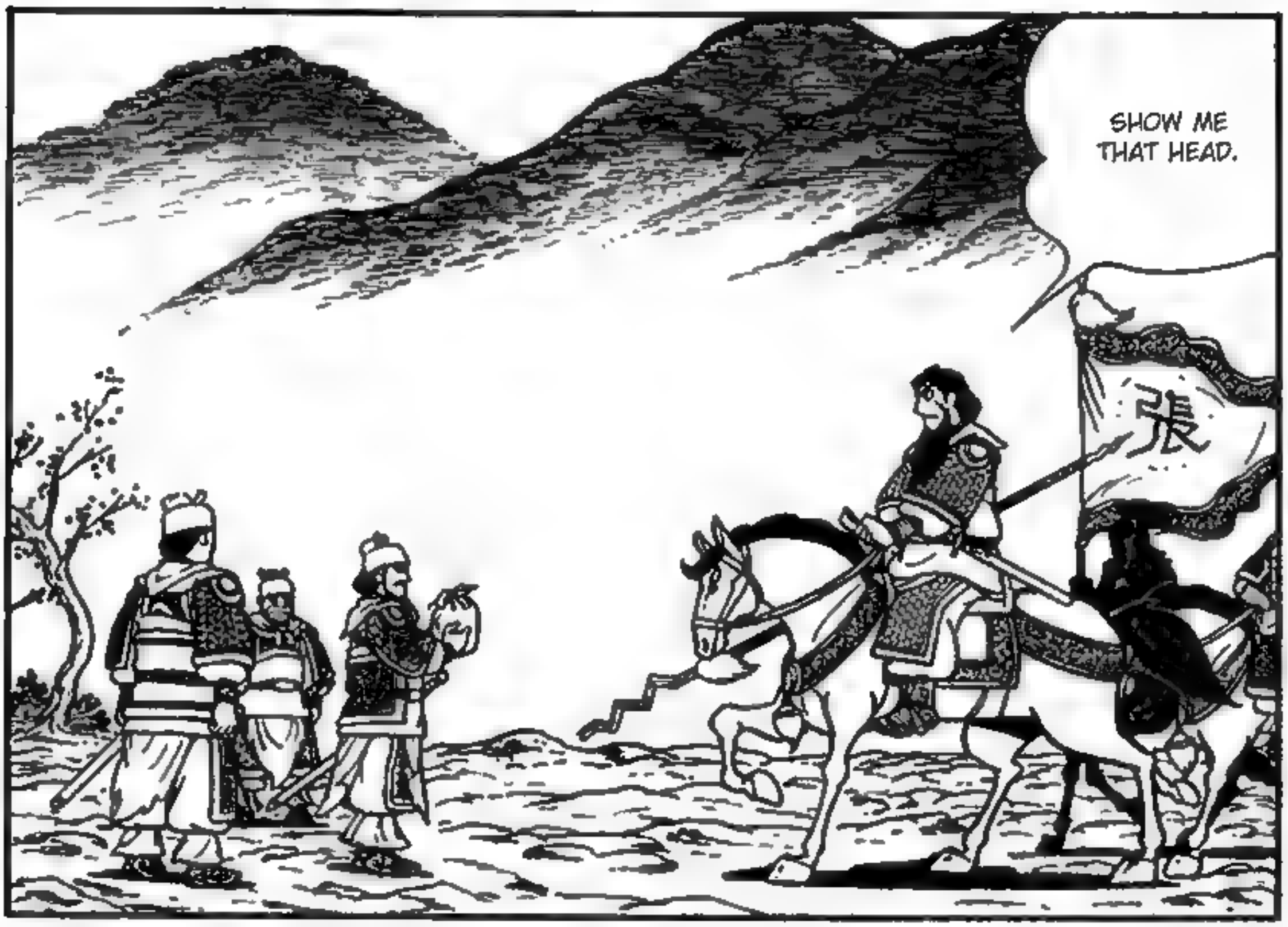
HM?

I AM GONG ZHI, AND I COME HERE TO SURRENDER ON BEHALF OF WULING.

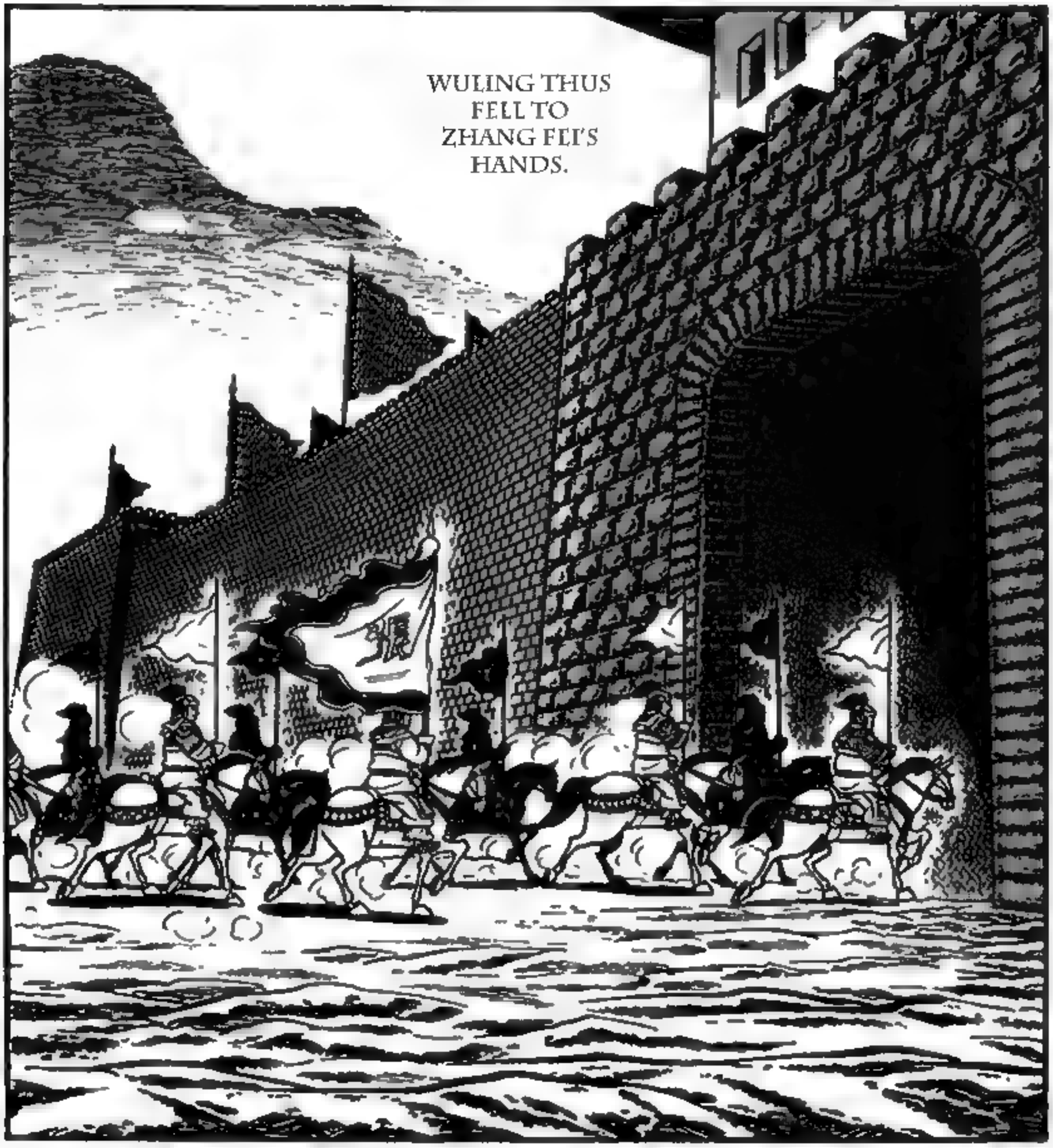
WHO ARE YOU!?

AS PROOF OF OUR SINCERITY TO SUBMIT, HERE IS THE HEAD OF JIN XUAN, FORMER GOVERNOR OF WULING.

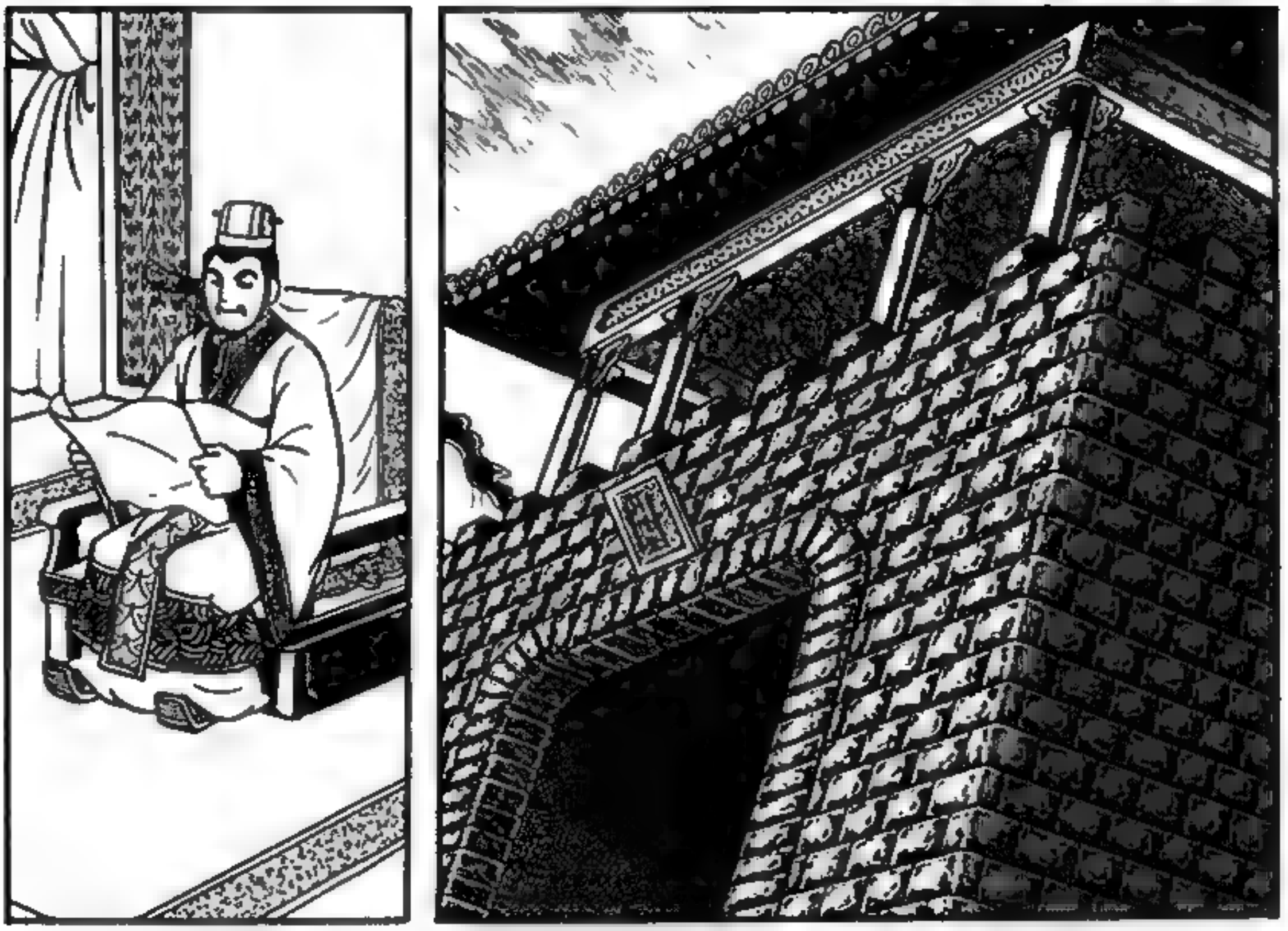

SHOW ME THAT HEAD.

ALRIGHT THEN, LEAD THE WAY INSIDE.

YES, THAT'S HIM ALRIGHT...


WULING THUS FELL TO ZHANG FEI'S HANDS.

YES, SIR.
GONG ZHI. YOU WILL GO GIVE THIS LETTER TO MY LORD. IT IS A REPORT SAYING HOW YOU AND WULING SURRENDERED ON THEIR OWN.

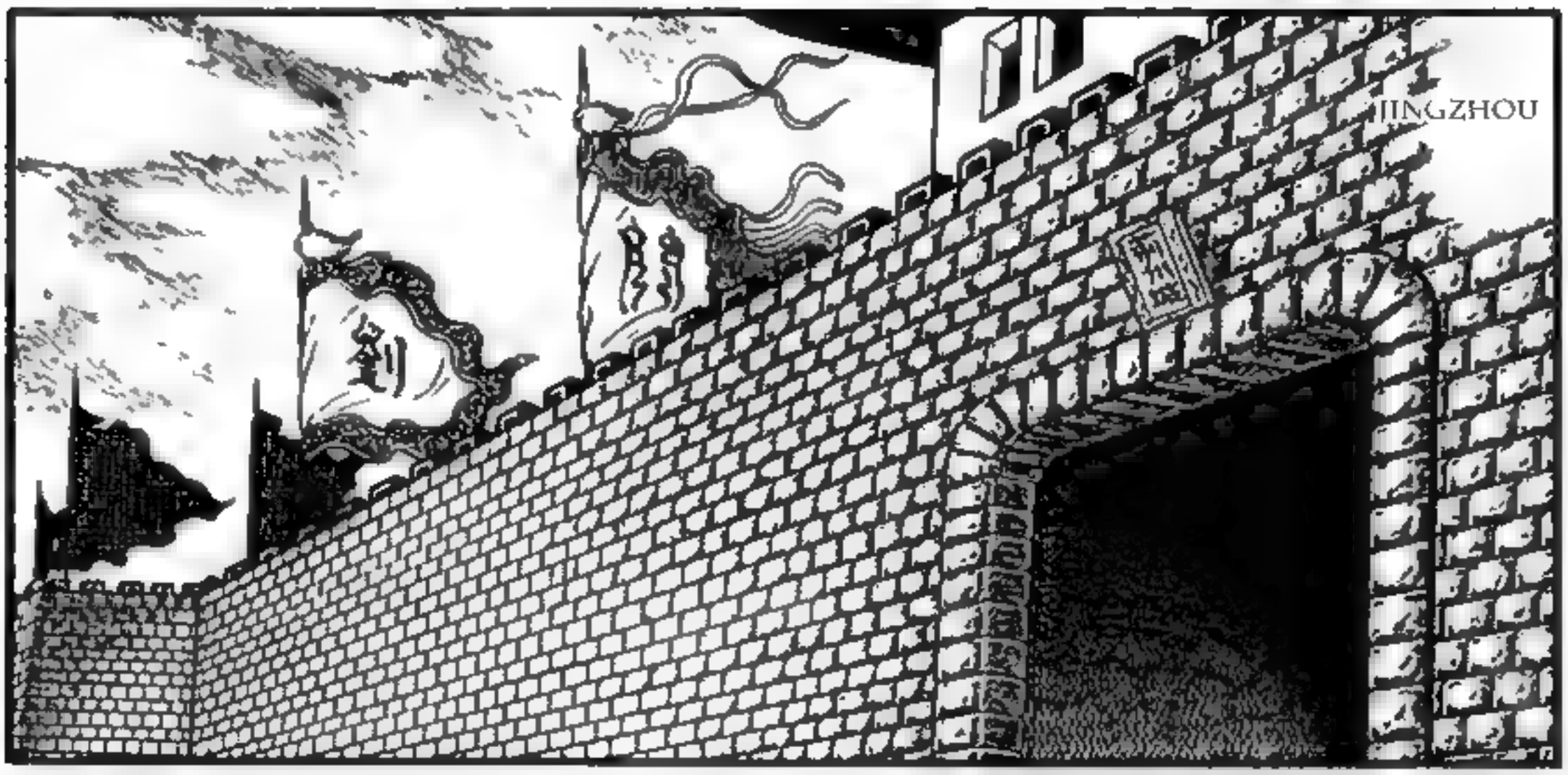


YOUR CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF WULING'S CITIZENS IS MOST COMMENDABLE.

I HEREBY APPOINT YOU AS WULING'S NEW GOVERNOR. I'M SURE THEY'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THAT.
PLEASE PREPARE TO GRACIOUSLY RECEIVE GONG ZHI FOR HIS EFFORTS AND COMPASSION-ATE SERVICE.
YES, ONLY CHANGSHA REMAINS NOW.
THAT MAKES 3 COMMANDERIES.

SINCE HE'S DEFENDING JINGZHOU CURRENTLY, I'M SURE HE'S QUITE KEEN TO HEAR ABOUT THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF OUR WAR.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT. I SHOULD LET GUAN YU KNOW TOO.


JINGZHOU

IT APPEARS OUR LORD HAS ALREADY OBTAINED THREE COMMANDERIES.

WHAT DOES THE LETTER SAY, SIR?

DESPITE THE GOOD NEWS, IF ONLY I COULD BE HELPING MY LORD ON THE BATTLE-FIELDS LIKE ZHAO ZILONG OR ZHANG FEI...

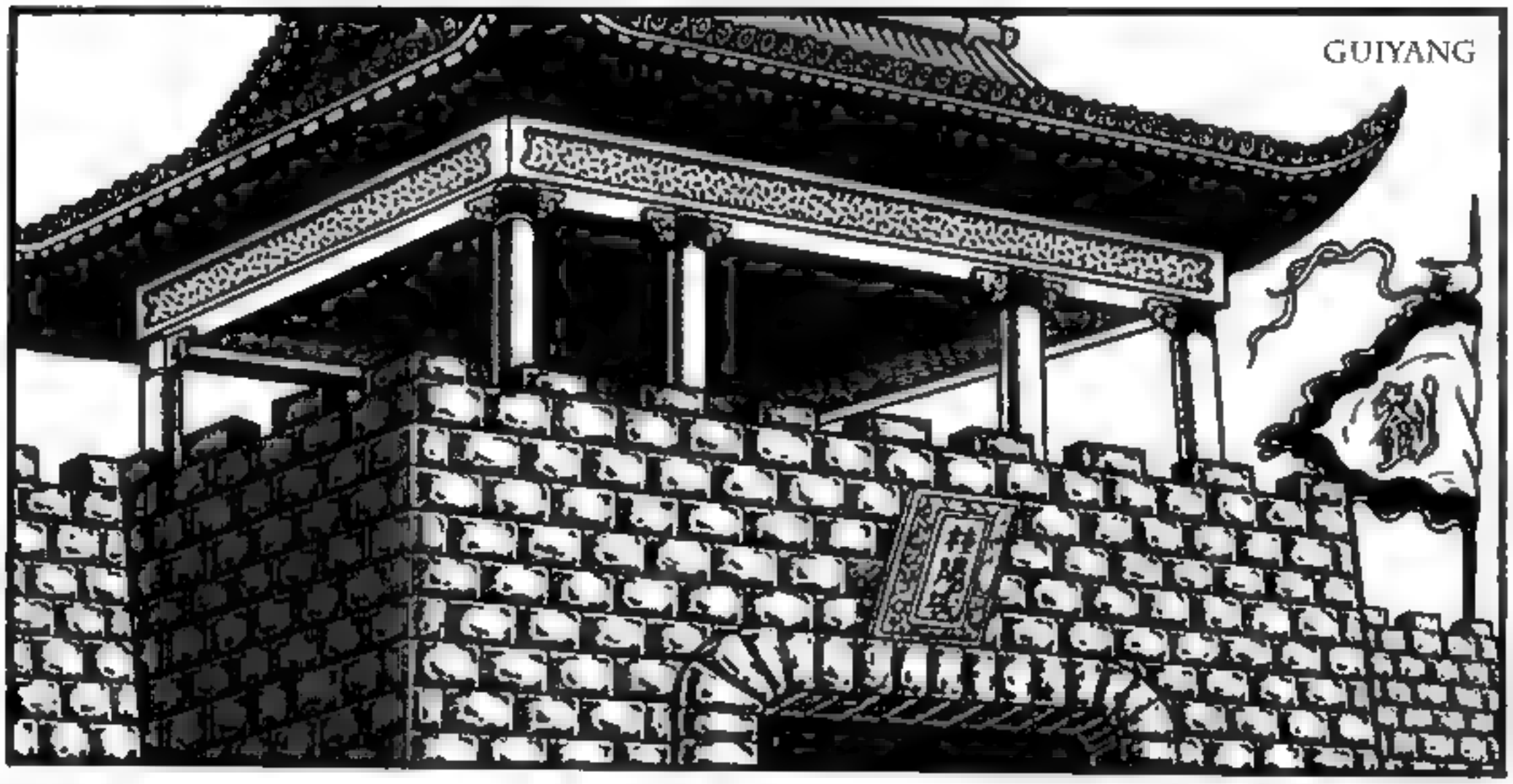
YOU THINK SO, ZHOU CANG?

NO NEED TO BE SO PESSIMISTIC, SIR. YOU SHOULD ASK OUR LORD IF THAT'S HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

BUT I DOUBT I'D BE GIVEN THE CHANCE AFTER I LET CAO CAO ESCAPE FROM MY SIGHTS LAST TIME...

OH, I'M SURE IT COULDN'T HURT TO ASK...

AFTER HEARING OF ZHANG FEI AND ZHAO YUN'S SUCCESSES, I MUST ADMIT THAT MY WARRIOR'S HEART IS FILLED WITH JEALOUSY. THUS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK MY LORD IF I COULD BE GIVEN THE HONOUR OF CAPTURING CHANGSHA...


GUIYANG

GUAN YU SAYS HE'D LIKE TO CAPTURE CHANGSHA.

IF THAT IS MY LORD'S DESIRE, THEN PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ACT UPON IT.
I'D LOVE TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE VERY MUCH BUT... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ZHANG FEI.

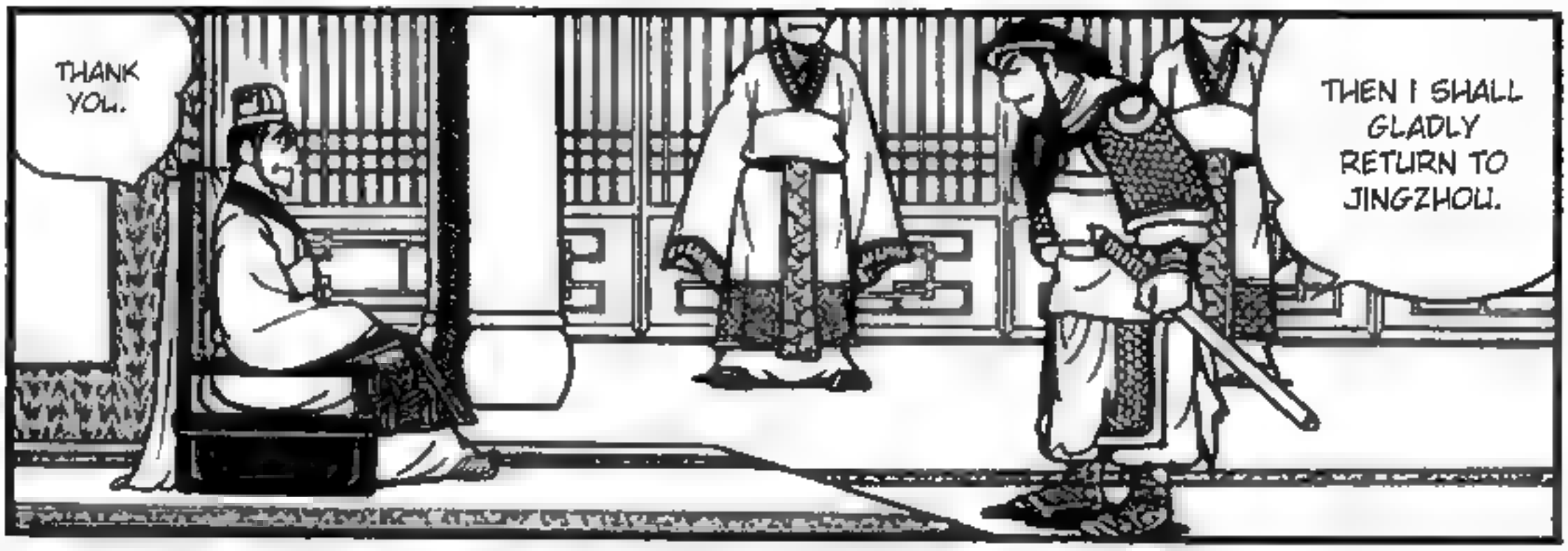
THEN IT'S DECIDED. GUAN YU SHALL LEAD THE ATTACK ON CHANGSHA.

PLEASE SWITCH GUARD DUTY WITH GUAN YU BACK IN JINGZHOU.

YES, MY LORD?

OHH, YOU'RE FINALLY GIVING BROTHER ANOTHER CHANCE AT BATTLE?

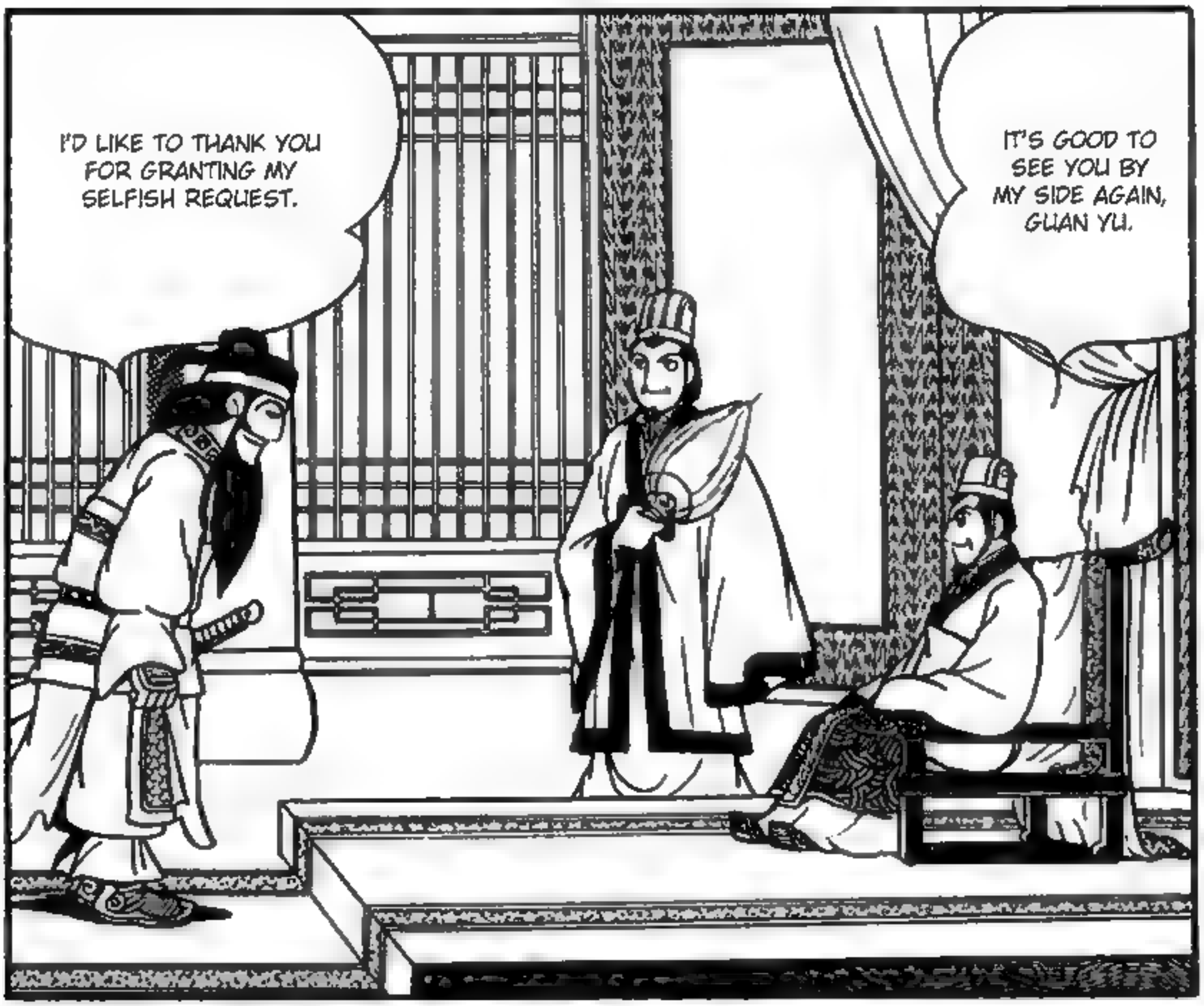
I WANT HIM TO COME TO THE FRONTLINES AND ATTACK CHANGSHA.

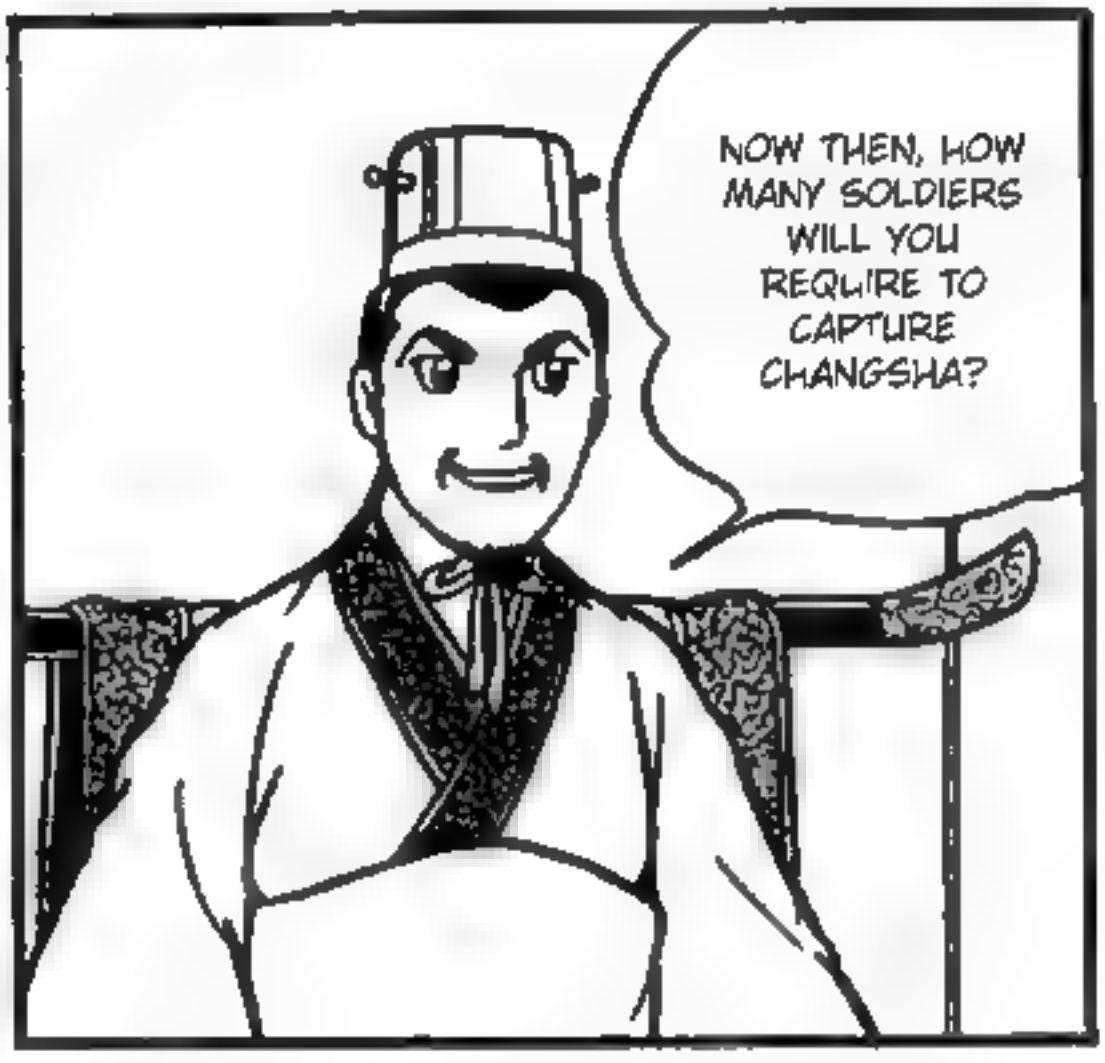

THANK YOU.
THEN I SHALL GLADLY RETURN TO JINGZHOU.

AND SO, ZHANG FEI RETURNED TO JINGZHOU,

WHILE GUAN YU CAME OUT TO GUIYANG

GUAN YU AND HIS 500 TROOPS





YES, THAT SHOULD BE PLENTY.

ONLY 500? ARE YOU SURE!?

THANK YOU.

AS YOU WISH. YOU MAY NOW DEPART.

THOUGH I NEEDN'T BE CONCERNED ABOUT A GENERAL OF YOUR CALIBRE, KNOWING ONE'S ENEMY IS KEY TO VICTORY.

?

A MOMENT, IF YOU WILL, GENERAL.

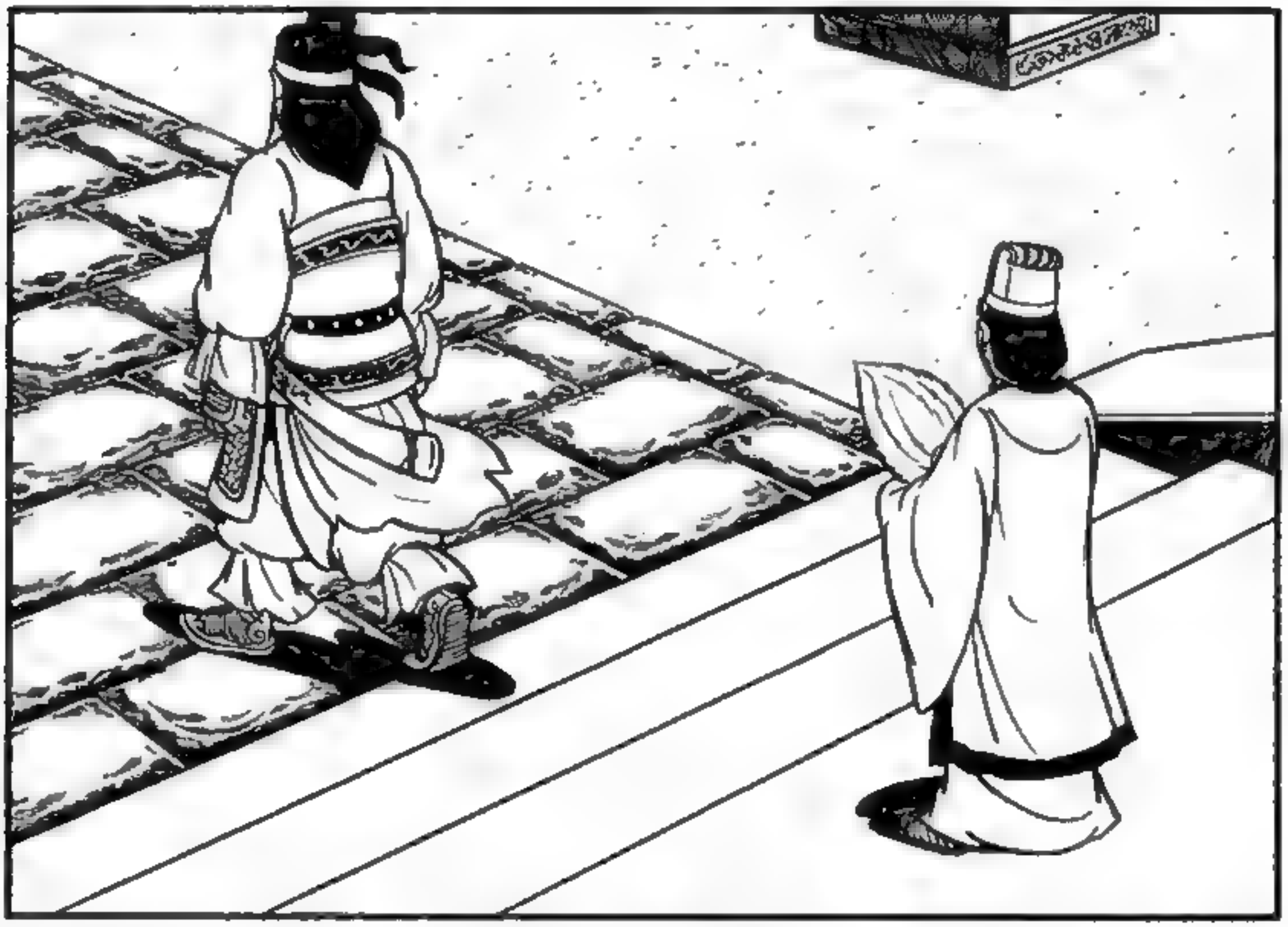
HIS NAME IS HUANG ZHONG, AND HE IS NOW NEARLY 60 YEARS OLD. DESPITE HIS AGE, HIS SKILLS WITH THE BOW, SWORD, AND SPEAR ARE TO BE RECKONED WITH. IT WOULD NOT BE AN OVERSTATEMENT TO SAY HE IS THE SOLE REASON WHY CHANGSHA HAS RESISTED INVADERS.

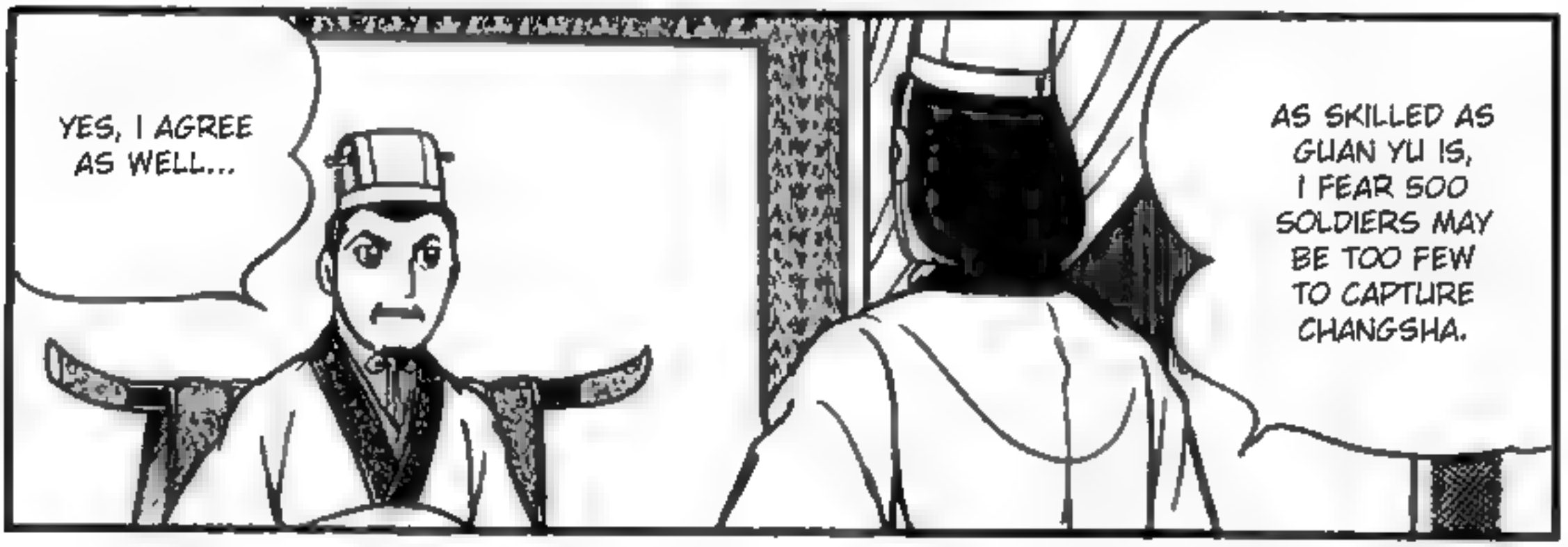
HAN XUAN, THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA, IS AN ARROGANT MAN WHO IS NEITHER TRUSTED NOR RESPECTED BY HIS SUBORDINATES. HOWEVER, THERE IS ONE VERY TALENTED GENERAL UNDER HAN XUAN'S COMMAND.

AS SUCH, I FEAR THAT TAKING CHANGSHA WITH ONLY 500 MEN WILL BE TOO DIFFICULT. I ADVISE YOU TO BORROW MORE TROOPS FROM OUR LORD.

EXCUSE ME THEN.

I'M THANKFUL FOR YOUR ADVICE AND CONCERN, BUT I'M CONFIDENT 500 SHOULD BE ENOUGH.




YES, I AGREE AS WELL...
AS SKILLED AS GUAN YU IS, I FEAR 500 SOLDIERS MAY BE TOO FEW TO CAPTURE CHANGSHA.

YES, GOOD IDEA.

THOUGH I RESPECT HIS INTENTIONS, MY LORD SHOULD ALSO HEAD OUT TO SUPPORT HIM IN CASE WORSE TURNS TO WORST.

HE MUST BE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR HIS FAILURE DURING THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS.

PREPARE MY TROOPS TO MOVE OUT SOON!

AND SO, GUAN YU AND HIS 500 TROOPS HEADED FOR CHANGSHA, FOLLOWED BY LIU BEI AND HIS ARMY

CHANGSHA
500 SOLDIERS, AND THEY ARE LED BY GENERAL GUAN YU.
HOW MANY DO THEY NUMBER?
LIU BEI'S FORCES ARE NOW MARCHING IN MY LANDS?
YES, GOVERNOR.
ONLY 500!?
500!?

YES, SIR.

HUANG ZHONG! TAKE CARE OF THEM AT ONCE!

HOW DARE THEY UNDERESTIMATE ME THAT MUCH!

HMM, GOOD POINT, YANG LIN.

AS THE SCOUT REPORTED, THE ENEMIES ONLY NUMBER 500. THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND OUT GENERAL HUANG ZHONG FOR SUCH A MINOR THREAT.

WAIT JUST A MOMENT!

THANK YOU.

FINE, I SHALL GIVE YOU A 1000 SOLDIERS TO CRUSH THAT ARROGANT GUAN YU!

YES...
SIR, THAT IS CHANGSHA UP AHEAD.

TAKING CHANGSHA WILL BE MY WAY TO MAKE UP FOR THAT SHAMEFUL FAILURE.

LISTEN UP, MEN. DURING THE BATTLE OF RED CLIFFS, I BETRAYED MY LORD'S EXPECTATIONS AND ORDERS BY LETTING CAO CAO ESCAPE.

THE SOO OF YOU HAVE BEEN MY MOST LOYAL SUBORDI-NATES WHO'VE STUCK BY ME THROUGH THICK AND THIN. AND SO I ASK YOU, WILL YOU HELP ME REGAIN HONOUR ONCE MORE!?

SIR! THE ENEMIES ARE COMING OUT TO FIGHT US!

CHARGE!

GOOD...

WHO IS YOUR LEADER!? COME OUT AND FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!

ATTACKING CHANGSHA WITH ONLY 500 MEN!? THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO HOW FOOLISH ONE CAN BE. I, YANG LING, SHALL PUT AN END TO YOUR ARROGANCE!

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH!

GOOD!

HERE I COME!

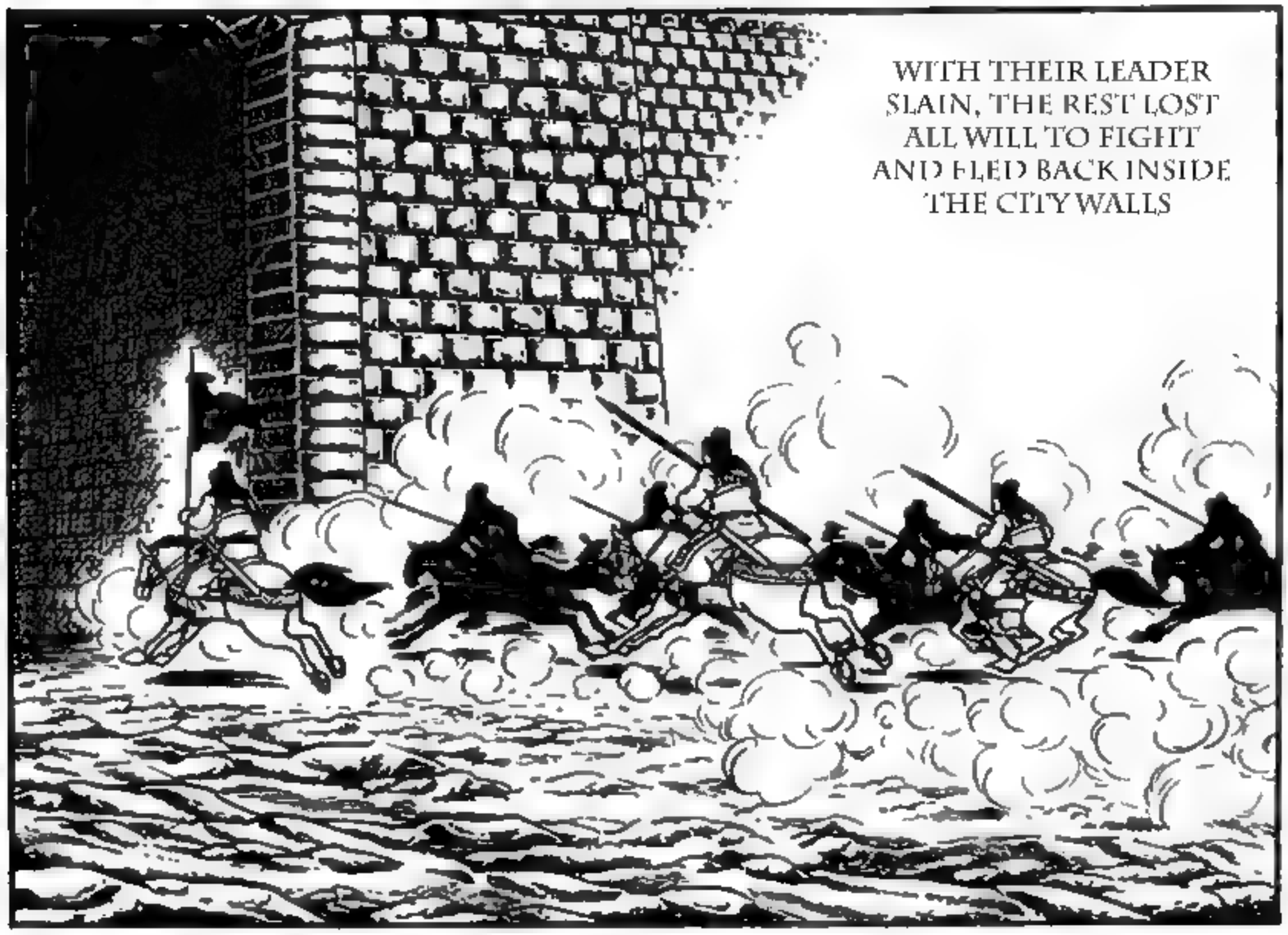
LASTED ONLY FOR AN INSTANT

THEIR DUEL

SIR!

AGHHH!

ACK!
AGHH!
WHO'S NEXT!?


WITH THEIR LEADER SLAIN, THE REST LOST ALL WILL TO FIGHT AND FLED BACK INSIDE THE CITY WALLS

NOW'S OUR CHANCE! ENTER THE GATES WITH THEM!
HM?

IS THAT HUANG ZHONG WHO STANDS BEFORE ME!?

A WARRIOR WHO'S NOW NEARLY 60... THAT MUST BE HUANG ZHONG!

HOW ELSE WOULD I TAKE YOUR HEAD?

OH? SO YOU DARE ATTACK CHANGSHA DESPITE HAVING HEARD OF ME?

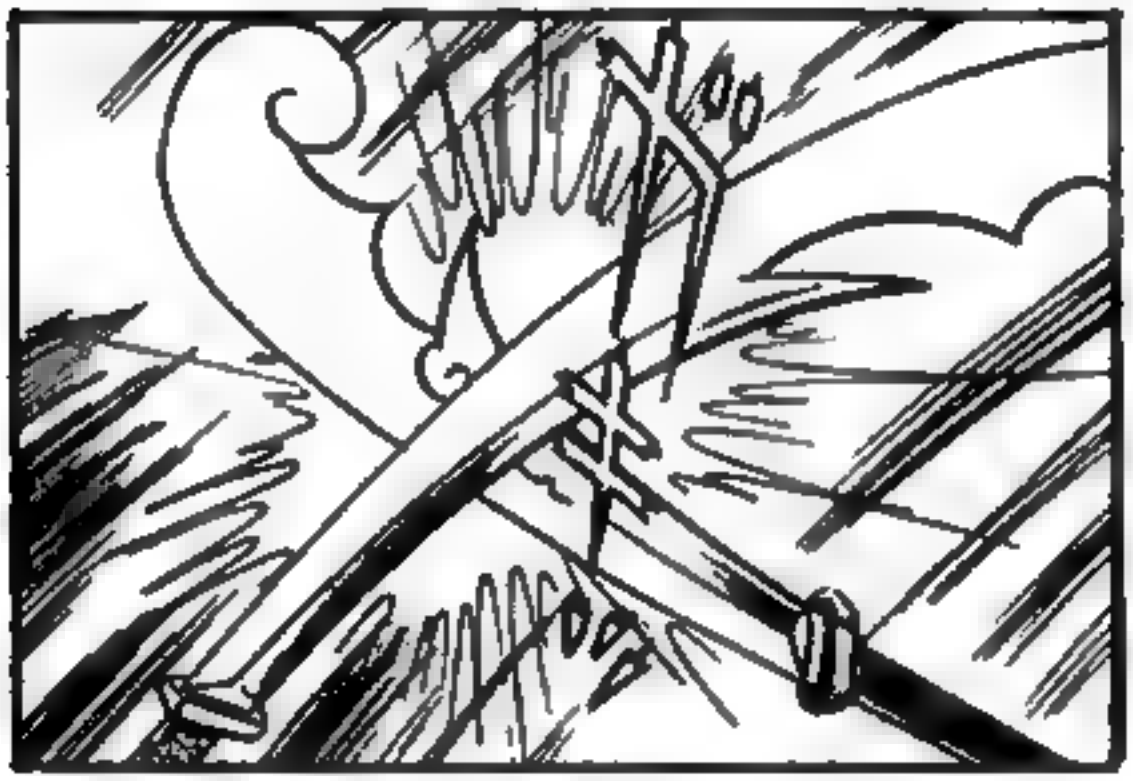
HAHAHA. DESPITE MY LOOKS, I'VE NOT YET AGED NEARLY ENOUGH TO HAVE MY HEAD TAKEN BY A YOUNG BRAT LIKE YOURSELF!

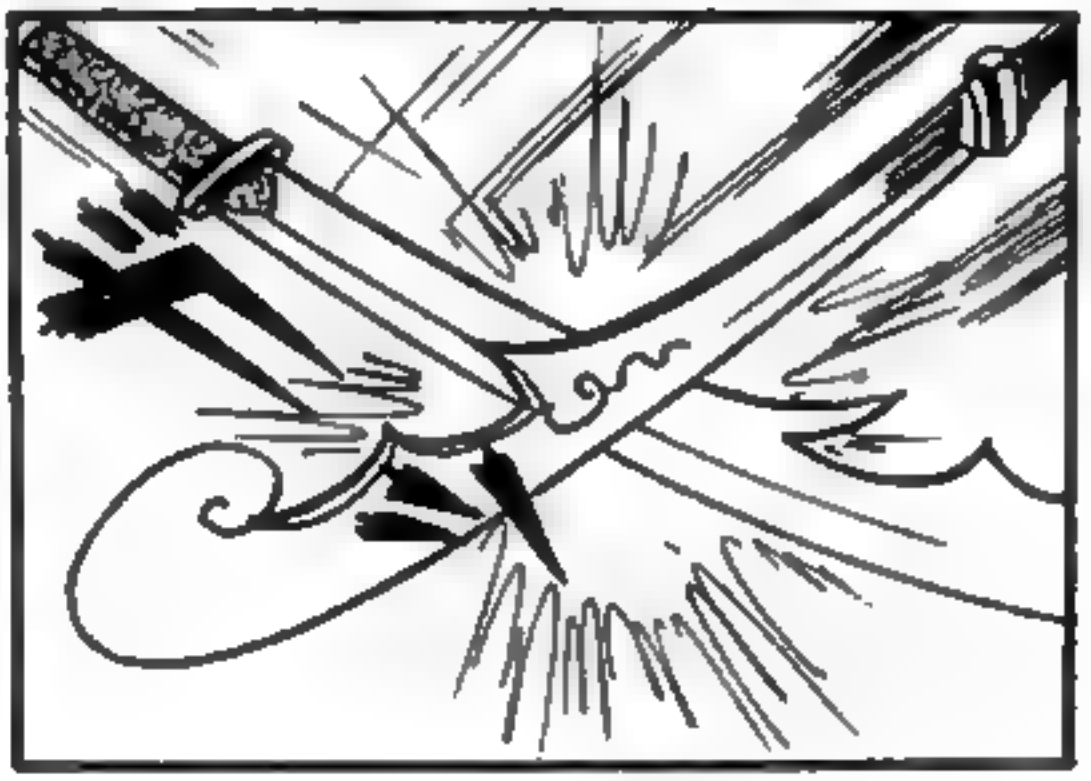
COME AT ME, IF YOU DARE.

OH, SO HE CAN FIGHT A LITTLE, CAN HE...?

T-THIS IS NO ORDINARY OLD MAN...!

HMPH, BUT THE STRONGER SOMEONE IS, THE MORE THEY'RE WORTH FIGHTING!





BUT IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HUANG ZHONG, OUR ENTIRE FORCES MAY BECOME DEMORALIZED.

YES...

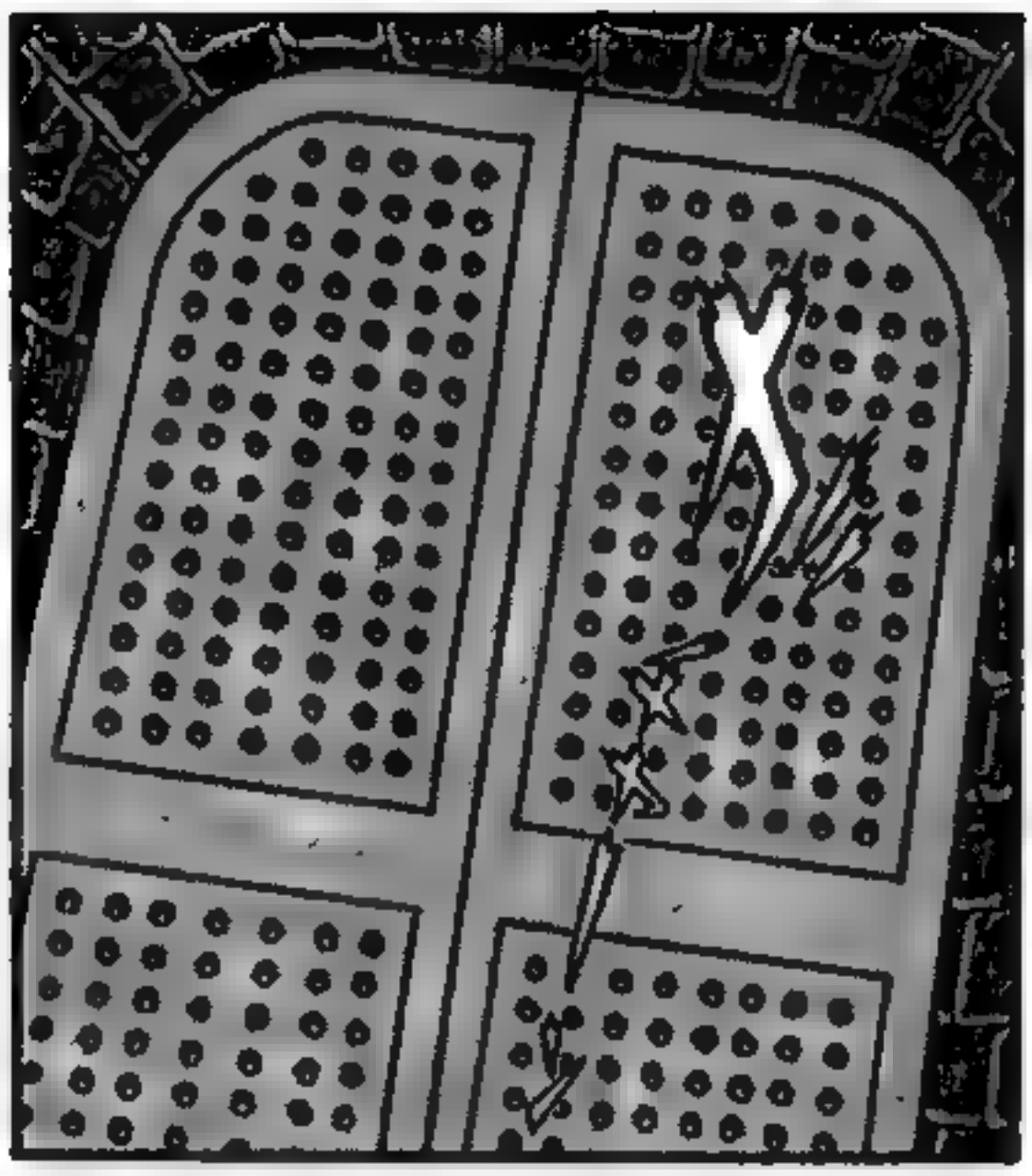
THE MATCH SEEMS DEAD-EVEN, GOVERNOR.

YES, AND WITH HIS OLD AGE, HE'LL ONLY BE MORE DISADVANTAGED THE LONGER THE FIGHT DRAGS ON..

YES, SIR.

GIVE HUANG ZHONG THE SIGNAL TO RETREAT.

LUCKILY FOR YOU, THAT'S MY SIGNAL TO RETREAT.
KEEP YOUR NECK NICE AND CLEAN UNTIL WE MEET NEXT TIME SO I CAN MAKE A CLEAN CUT.
AS MUCH AS I WISH TO TAKE YOUR HEAD WITH ME RIGHT NOW, ORDERS ARE ORDERS.



THAT'S ENOUGH FIGHTING FOR TODAY, MEN! SET UP BASE 10 LI AWAY FROM HERE!

I SHALL DUEL HIM AGAIN TOMORROW AND SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

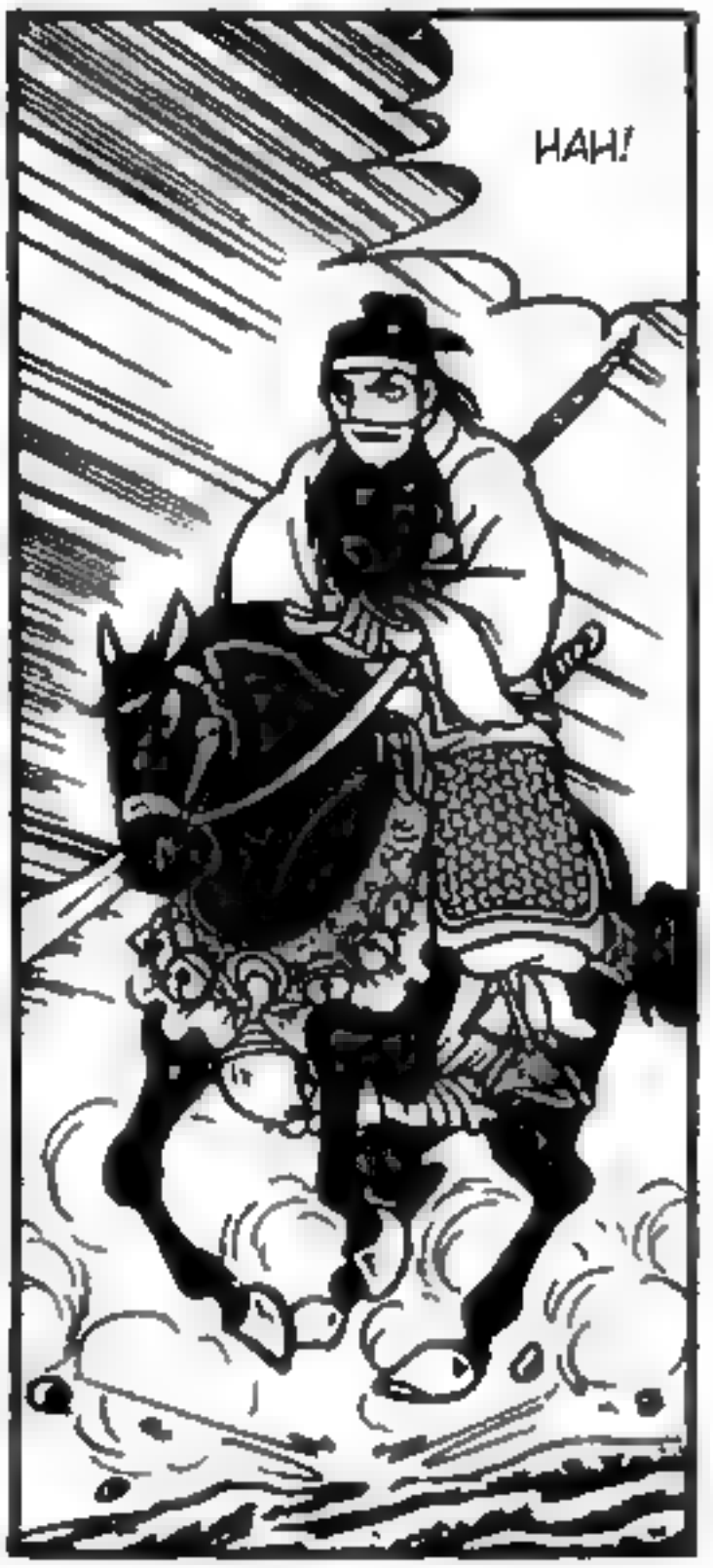
YES, AND UNLESS I TAKE CARE OF HIM, CHANGSHA WILL NOT FALL.

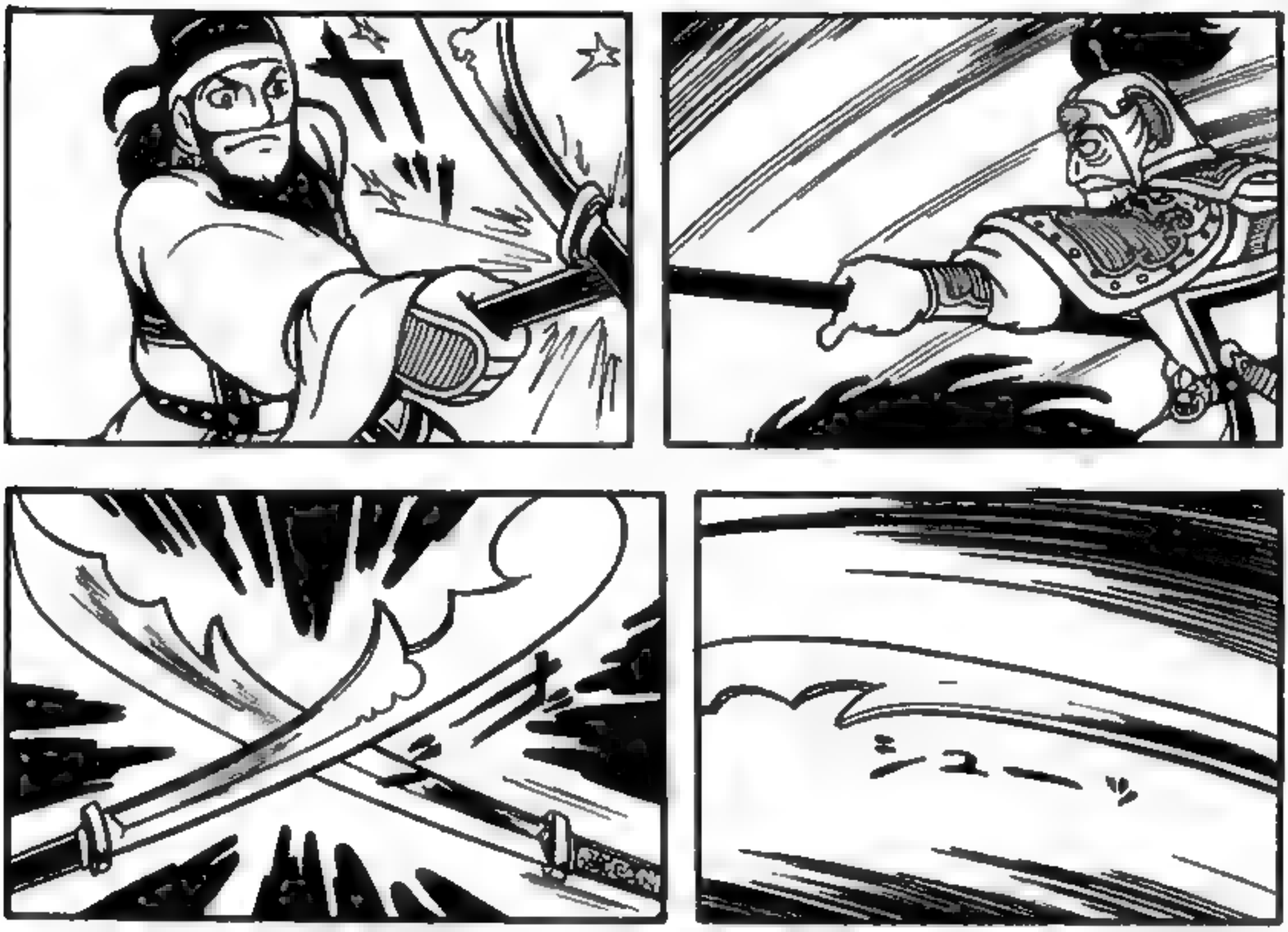
THAT OLD MAN'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T HE?

HUANG ZHONG! COME OUT SO WE CAN CONCLUDE OUR DUEL!

HERE I COME!

YES, MY FEELINGS EXACTLY. ONCE I TAKE CARE OF YOU, THE REST OF YOUR MEN WILL RUN LIKE HEADLESS CHICKENS.


HAH!



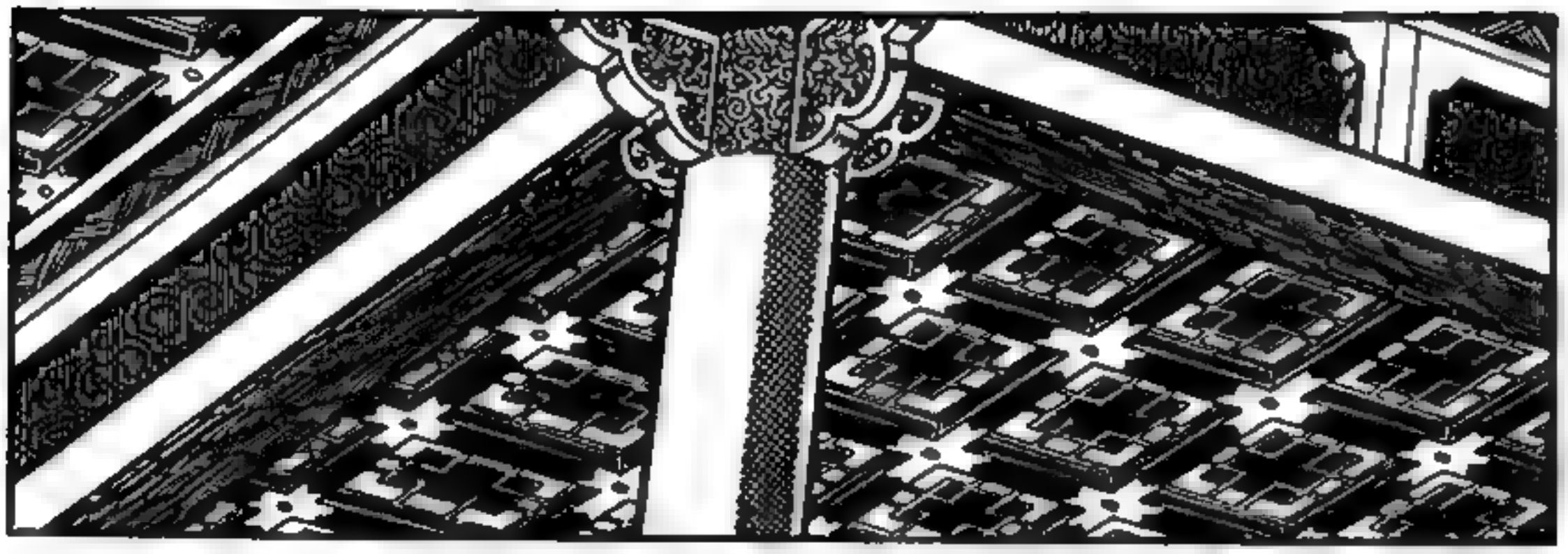
AGHI

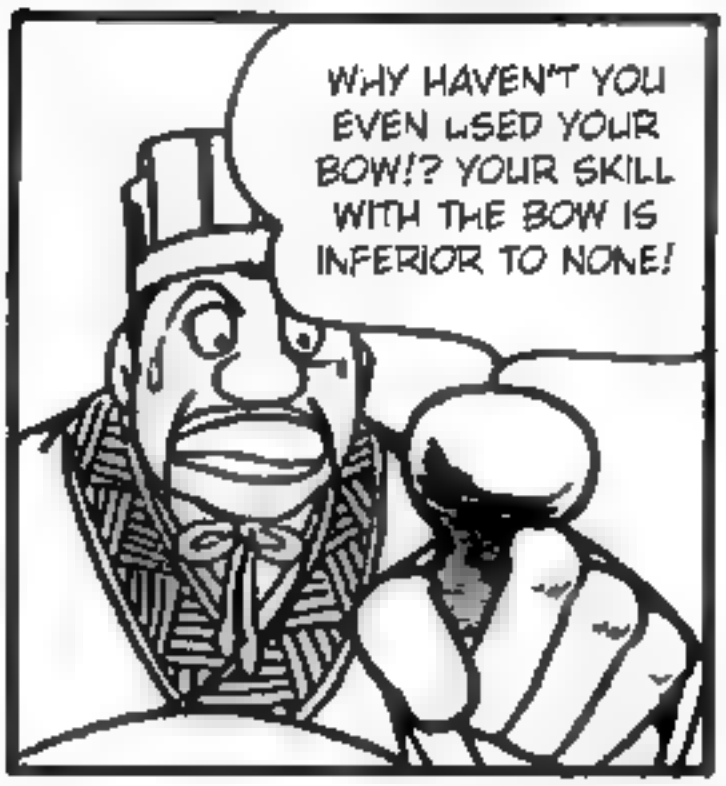
OHH!

AHH!

...

CHANGE YOUR HORSE AND LET US FIGHT AGAIN TOMORROW.




WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVEN USED YOUR BOW!? YOUR SKILL WITH THE BOW IS INFERIOR TO NONE!

FORGIVE ME FOR MY SHAMEFUL DISGRACE.
HUANG ZHONG! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF!

THEN I SHALL USE A BOW FOR THE DUEL TOMORROW.

THAT DAMN GEEZER'S STARTING TO GET ON MY NERVES...

I SHALL ENJOY WATCHING GUAN YU DIE TOMORROW...

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.

NOT A SINGLE MAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO DODGE ONE OF HUANG ZHONG'S ARROWS, GOVERNOR. EVEN THE FAMED GUAN YU SHALL SURELY MEET HIS END TOMORROW.

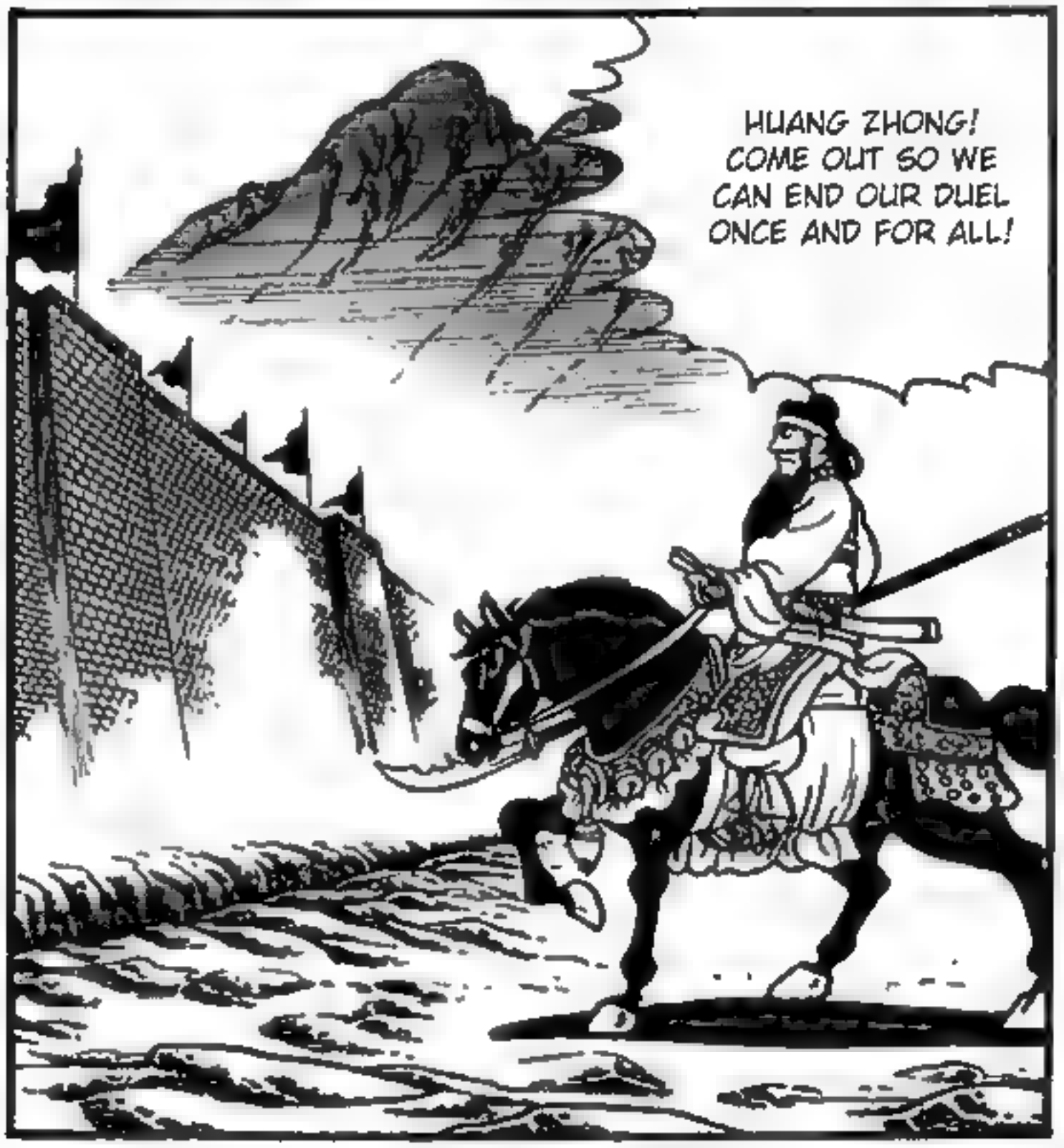
HAD HE WANTED TO, HE COULD HAVE EASILY KILLED ME THEN AND THERE...

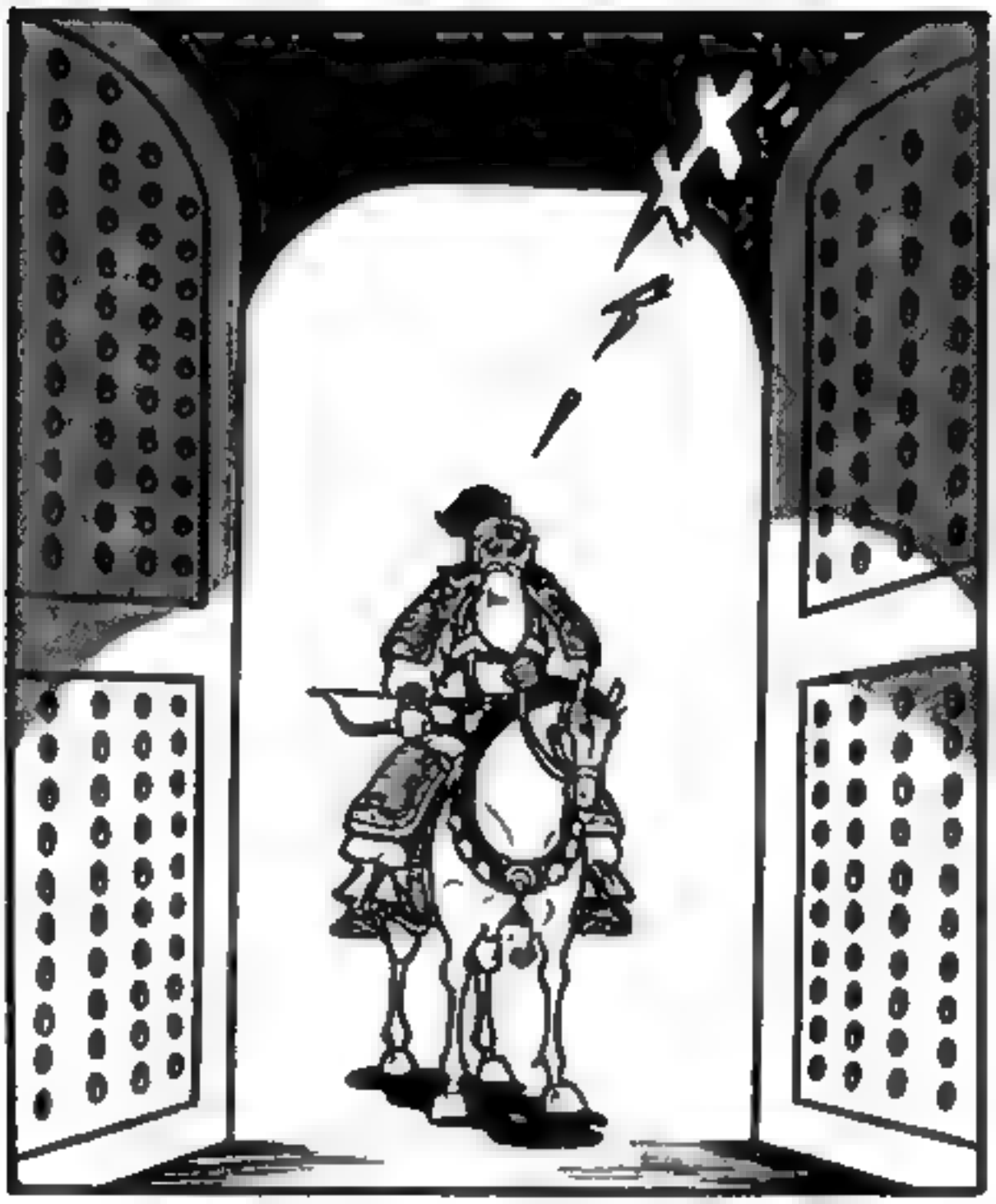
WHAT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE TO TAKE...?

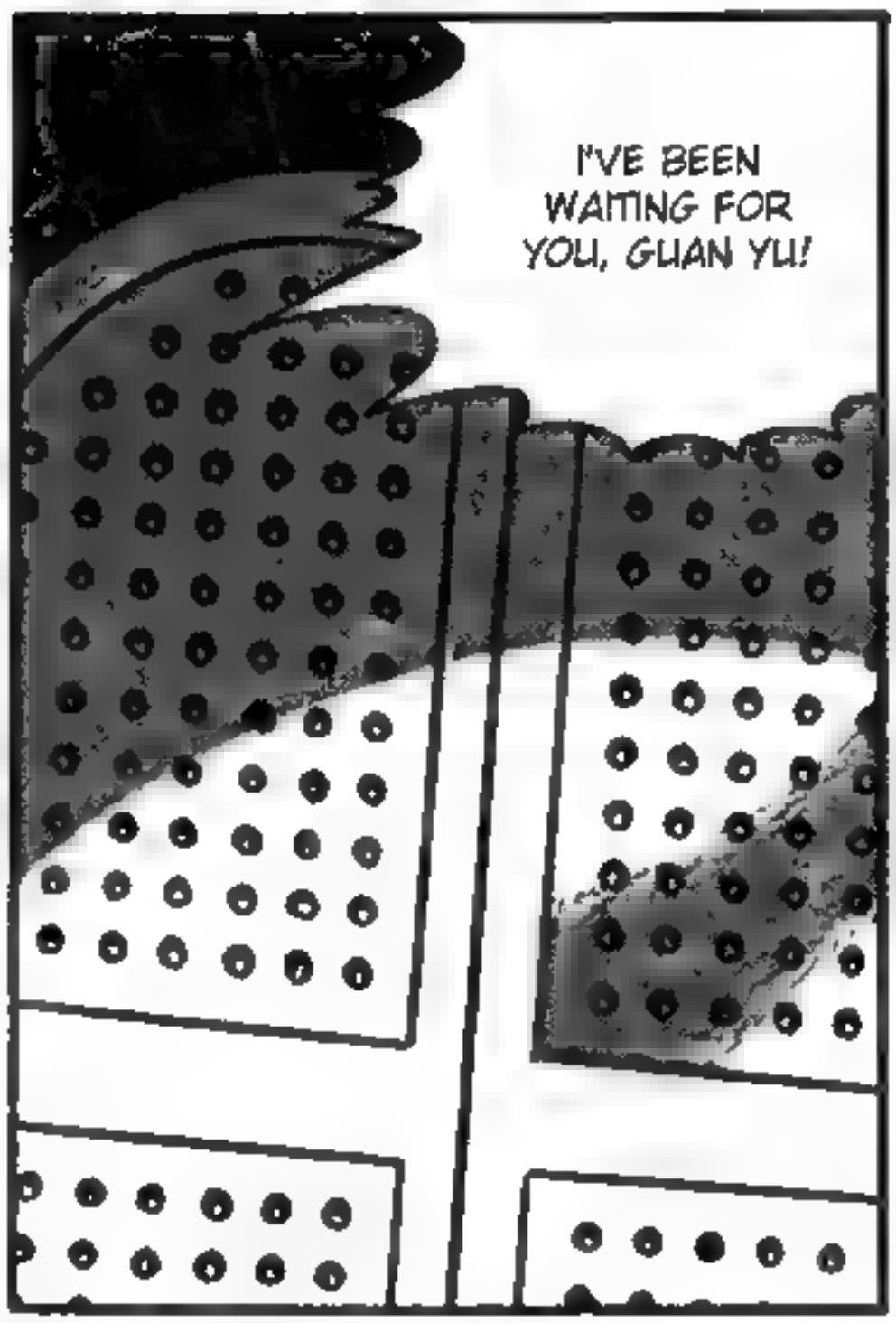
TO KILL HIM WITH A MERE ARROW FROM AFAR WOULD BE DISHONOURABLE... BUT REFUSING TO DO SO WOULD BE DISOBEYING MY LORD...

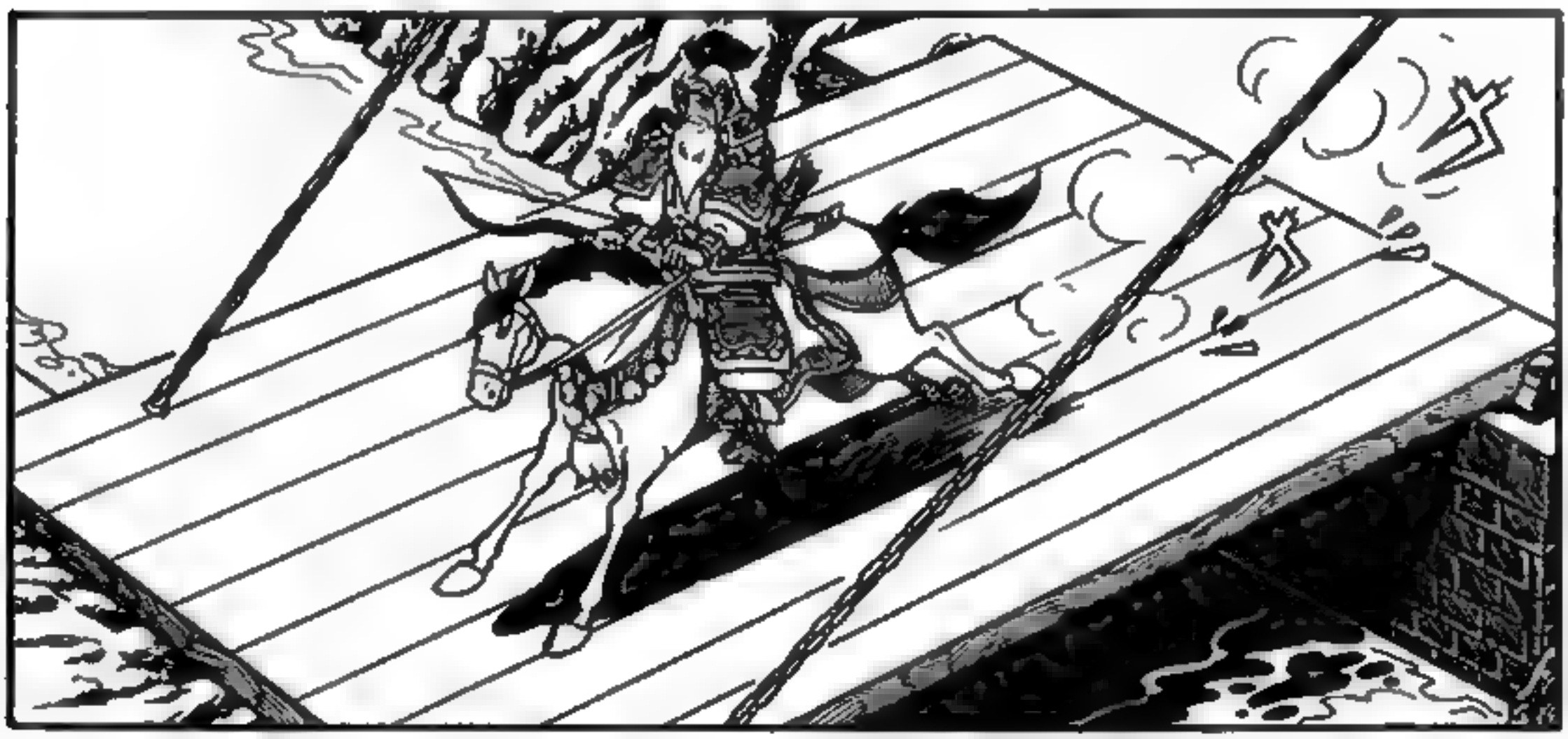
BUT TO SPARE ME OUT OF HIS SENSE OF HONOUR... A MAN LIKE HIM IS A RARITY IN THESE TREACHEROUS TIMES...

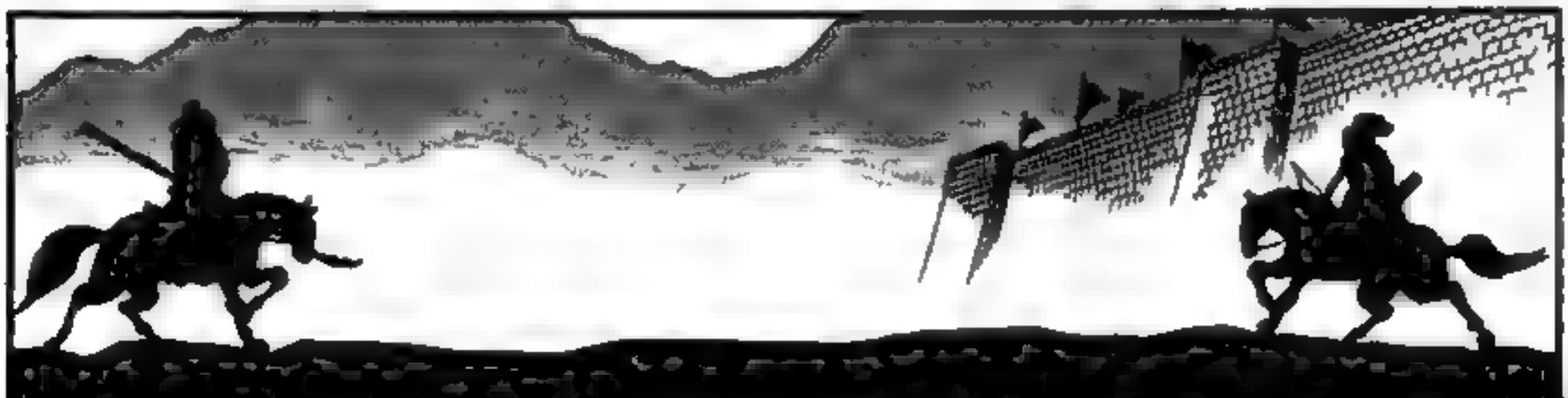
HUANG ZHONG'S ARROW

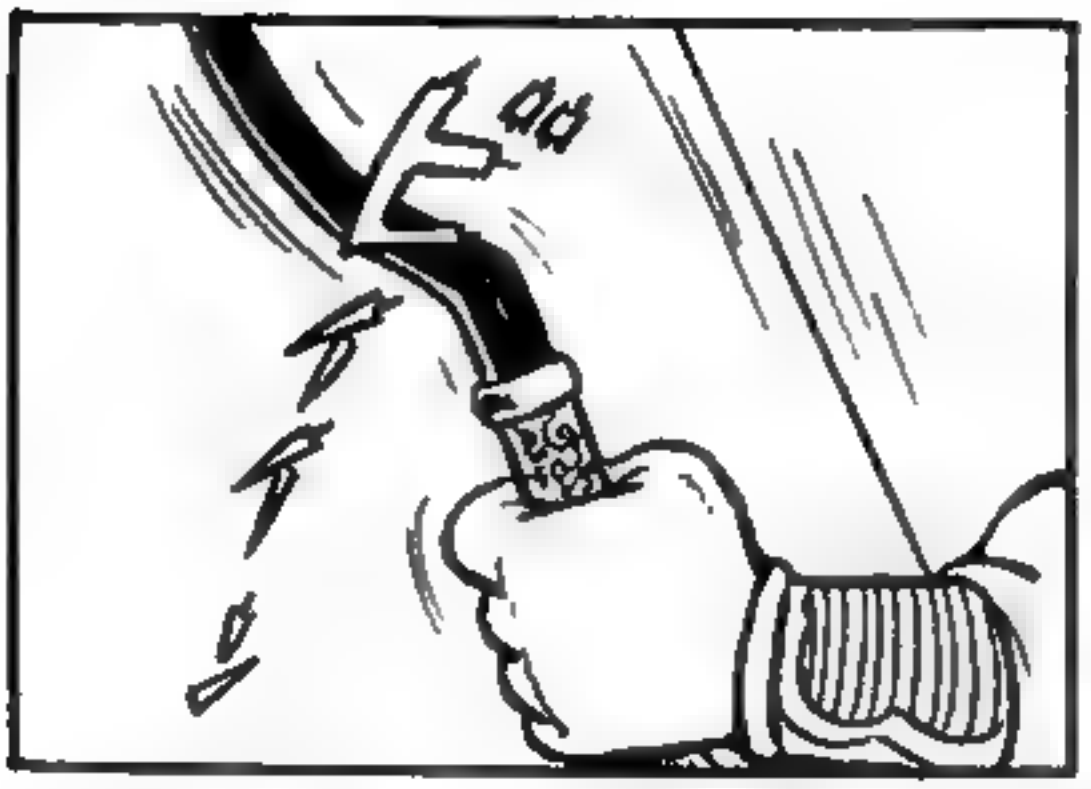


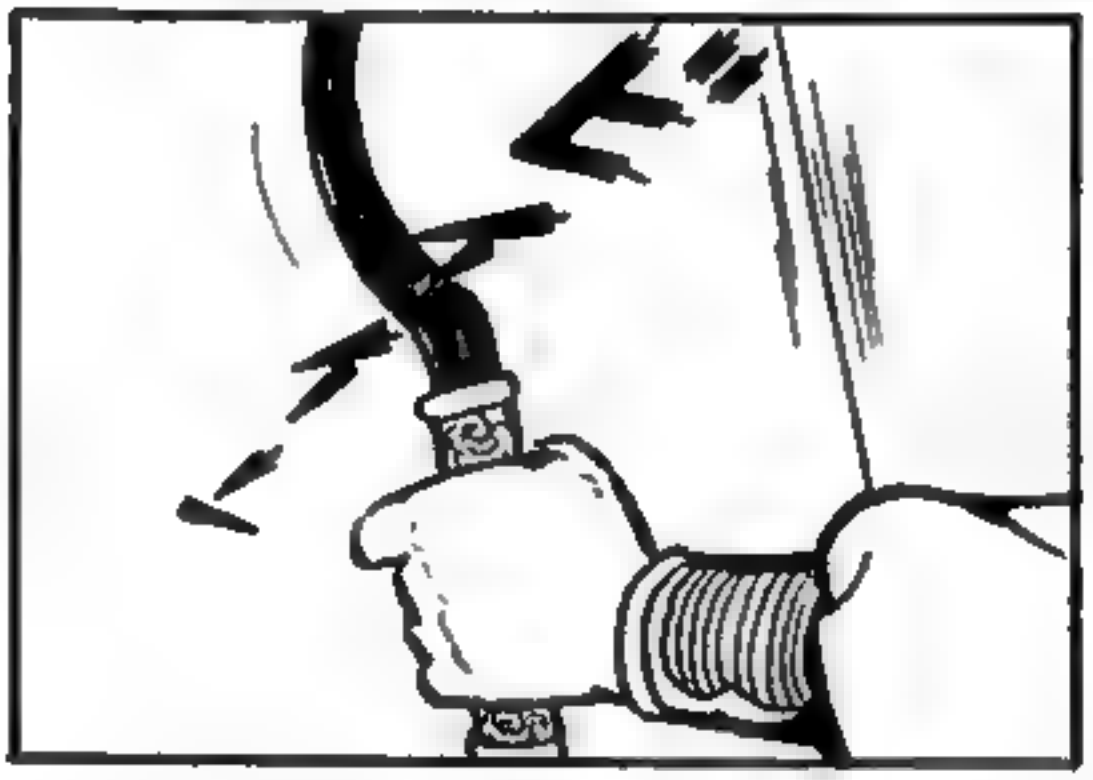
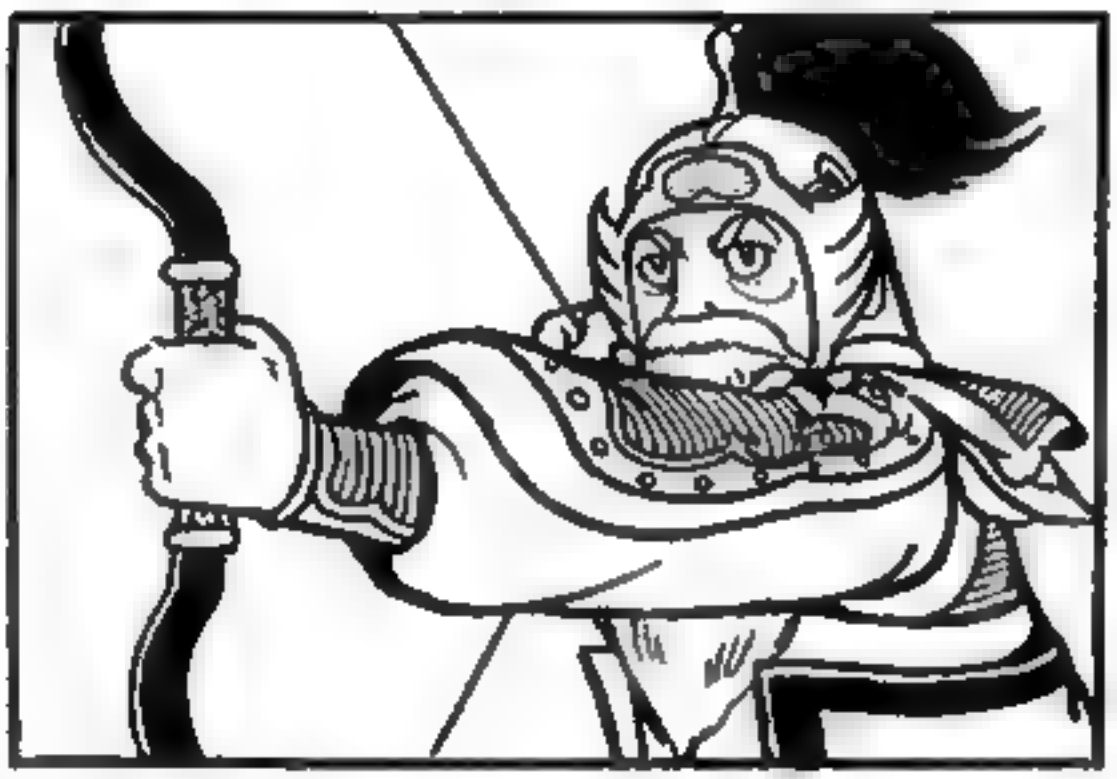


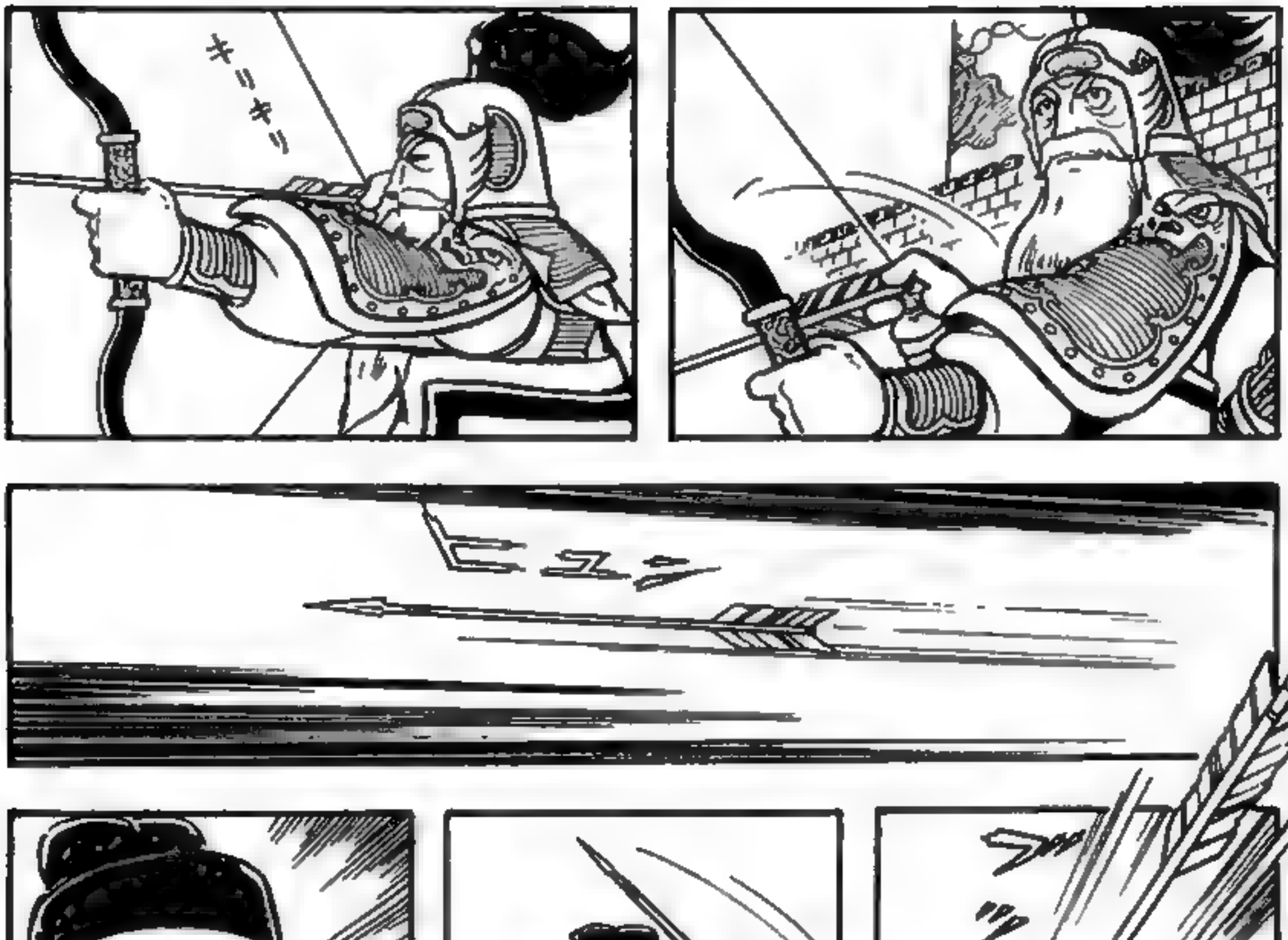

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, GUAN YU!





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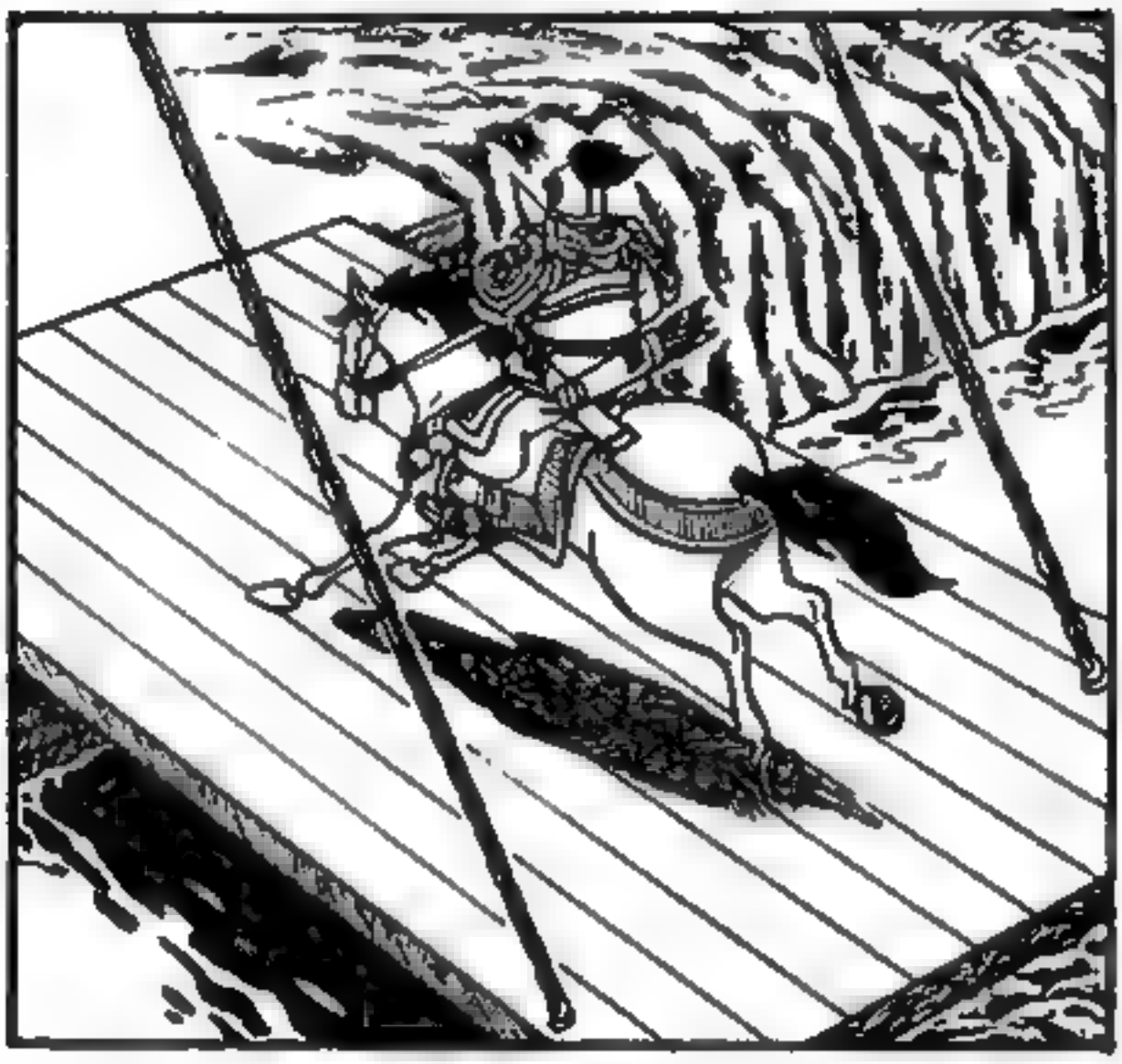
IN ANY CASE, HE'S GOT ONE DEADLY AIM...
HE SPARED MY LIFE IN RETURN FOR WHAT I DID YESTERDAY...

RETREAT FOR TODAY!

IT'D BE BEST TO NOT PUSH HIM TOO FAR FOR NOW.



HM!?

GOVERNOR'S ORDERS. COME WITH ME, SIR.

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

MAY I ASK WHY YOU'VE PUT ME UNDER ARREST, GOVERNOR?

SILENCE! I CLEQRLY SAW THAT FARCE OF A "DUEL" FROM UP HERE! YOU COULD'VE EASILY KILLED HIM WITH ONE SHOT BUT YOU TWICE PLUCKED AN EMPTY BOWSTRING AND ON YOUR THIRD SHOT, YOU DELIBERATELY MISSED TO SPARE HIS LIFE!

WHA!? NO, I...

IT'S OBVIOUS TO ANYONE THAT YOU'RE ALREADY IN LEAGUES WITH THE ENEMIES! HOW ELSE COULD YOU EXPLAIN IT!?

GUARDS! EXECUTE HIM AT ONCE!

YES, I'M SURE THERE'S ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR HIS ACTIONS TODAY. PLEASE, GOVERNOR!
GOVERNOR! HUANG ZHONG HAS BEEN CHANGSHA'S SAVIOUR FOR YEARS! I BEG OF YOU TO PLEASE SPARE HIS LIFE.

THAT'S ENOUGH! ANYBODY WHO DARES TO COMPLAIN SHALL ALSO BE EXECUTED FOR TREASON!

NOW TAKE HIM TO THE EXECUTION GROUNDS!
DON'T BLAME US, SIR. WE'RE ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS.

ISN'T THAT GENERAL HUANG ZHONG?

HM?

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED...?
WHY'S THE GENERAL BEING DRAGGED OFF TO THE EXECUTION GROUNDS?

HALT RIGHT THERE!

HM?

HUH?

GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU BRAINLESS COWARDS!

ANYBODY WHO DARES TO EXECUTE HUANG ZHONG SHALL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME FIRST!

THAT IS WHY I CALLED YOU BRAINLESS COWARDS! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT GENERAL HUANG ZHONG HAS DONE FOR CHANGSHA THROUGHOUT HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER!?

IT'S NOT LIKE ANY OF US ARE DOING THIS BECAUSE WE WANT TO. BUT DISOBEYING ORDERS WILL ONLY GET US KILLED TOO...

EVERYONE, LISTEN WELL TO MY WORDS! ARE YOU REALLY FINE WITH A LOYAL AND RIGHTEOUS MAN BEING EXECUTED!? WILL YOU STAND BY AND ALLOW SUCH INJUSTICE!?

THINK BACK ON THE MAN YOU'RE ALL TAKING ORDERS FROM! OUR GOVERNOR HAN XUAN!

IMPOSING HEAVY TAXES TO ADD TO HIS PERSONAL WEALTH,

AND EXECUTING ANY WHO REFUSES OR CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY

TAKING ANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN HE SEES OR HEARS ABOUT,

HOW LONG WILL YOU CONTINUE TO BE THAT WRETCH'S SLAVE!?

AND FORCING THEM TO BE HIS PERSONAL SERVING GIRLS

OUR TRUE ENEMY LIES NOT OUTSIDE THE CITY WALLS BUT WITHIN! HAN XUAN IS THE REAL VILLAIN HERE!

THE TIME TO PICK UP YOUR WEAPONS AND OVERTHROW HAN XUAN IS NOW!

I'M SURE THE NEXT GOVERNOR WE GET COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE AS BAD AS THE ONE WE HAVE NOW...

MY FATHER WAS MURDERED BY HIM!

HE'S RIGHT! OUR REAL ENEMY IS HAN XUAN!

LIU BEI XUANDE IS RENOWNED FOR HIS KINDNESS FOR THE COMMON PEOPLE! LET US WELCOME HIM AS OUR NEW LORD!

FOLLOW AFTER ME!

?

SIR!

WHAT'S THIS RUCKUS!?

WHAT!?

THE CIVILIANS HAVE BEGUN A REVOLT!

IT'S NOT JUST THE CIVILIANS, TOO! SOME OF THE SOLDIERS HAVE JOINED THE UPRISING AS WELL!

HOW DARE THEY! KILL EVERY LAST MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD WHO DARES TO REVOLT!

ドドド

W-WHAT!?

S-STOP THEM!

AGHH!

HAVE YOU FOOLS STILL NOT OPENED YOUR EYES!? IF EVEN HUANG ZHONG IS EXECUTED, THEN IT COULD BE ANYONE NEXT! EVEN YOU!

N-NO, PLEASE...

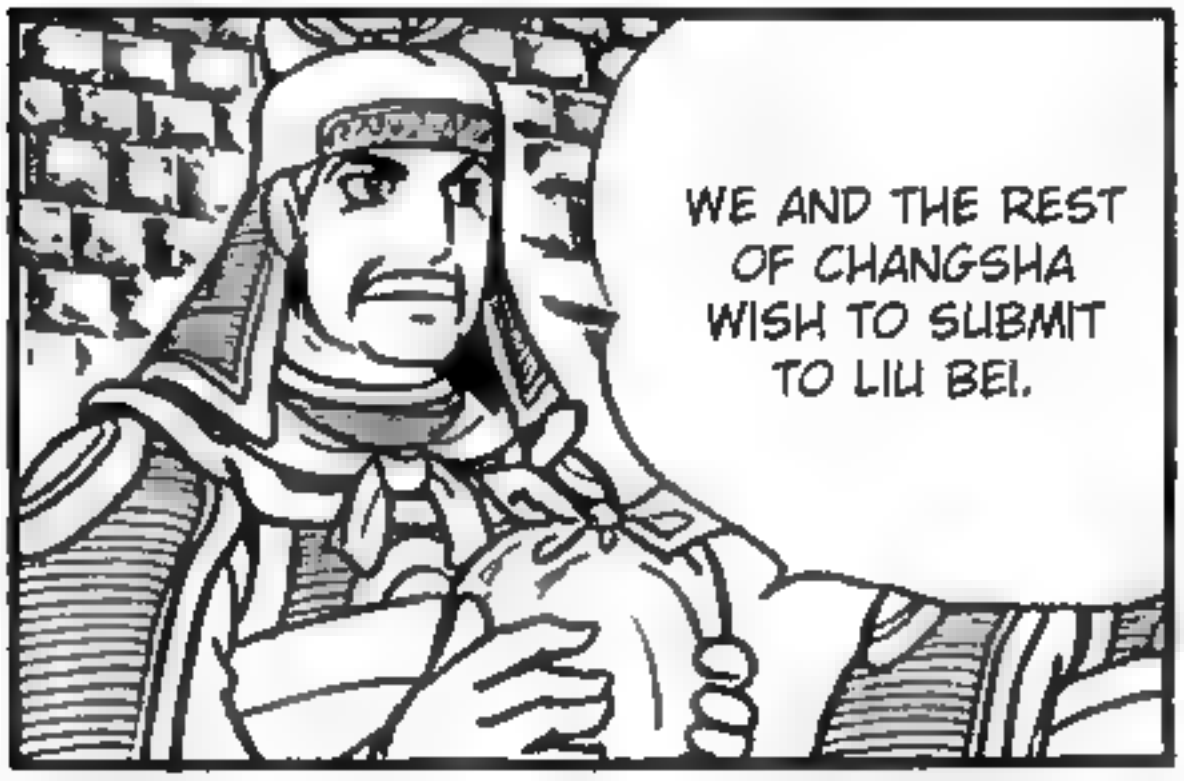
YOUR LIFE ENDS HERE, HAN XUAN.

THIS IS FOR CHANGSHA!

APPROACH WITH CAUTION!

YES...
THERE APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING HAPPENING INSIDE THE CITY, SIR.

HM?


WE AND THE REST OF CHANGSHA WISH TO SUBMIT TO LIU BEI.

WHO ARE YOU?

IT IS THE HEAD OF HAN XUAN, CHANGSHA'S GOVERNOR.

HERE IS OUR PROOF OF SINCERITY.

AND WHAT ABOUT HUANG ZHONG?

AHH!

I SEE...

AFTER LEARNING OF HAN XUAN'S DEATH, HE HAS SHUT HIMSELF UP IN HIS HOUSE AND REFUSES TO COME OUT.

I PREVIOUSLY SERVED LIU BIAO BUT EVER SINCE JINGZHOU FELL TO CAO CAO'S HANDS, I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE IN CHANGSHA.

I AM WEI YAN.

AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

WELL DONE, WEI YAN. MY LORD SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR THE NEWS AS WELL.

AND SO, CHANGSHA FINALLY FELL TO GUAN YU AND HIS 500 SOLDIERS

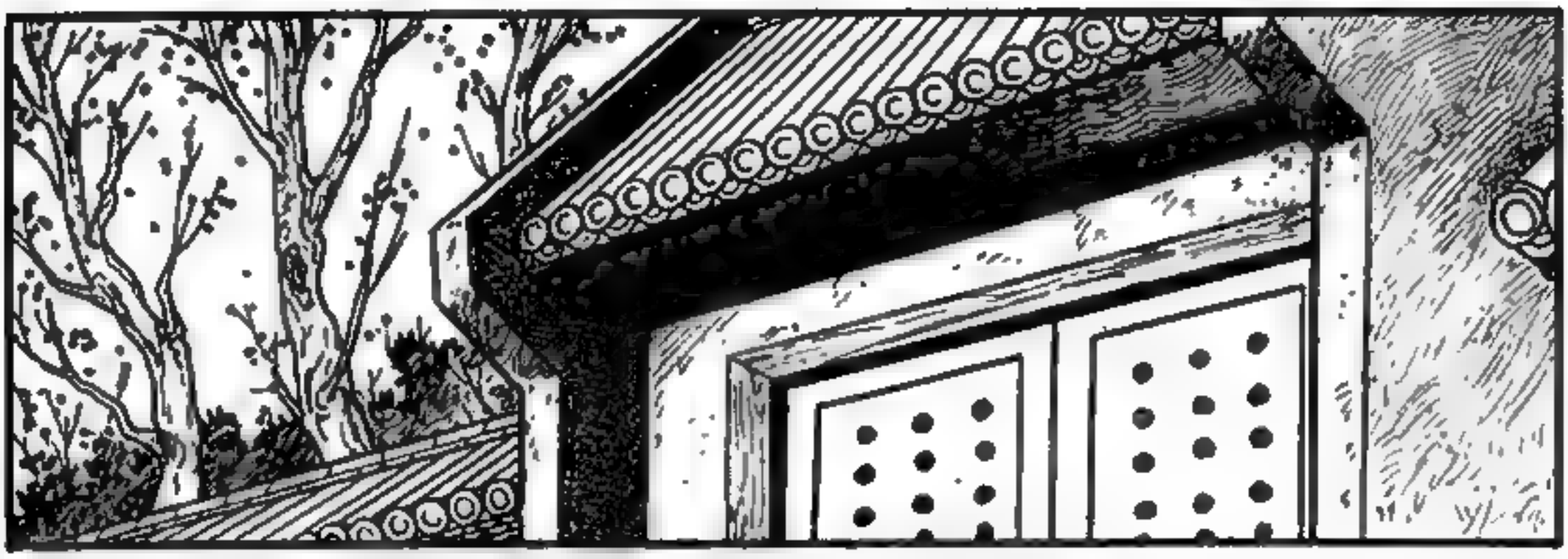
THANK YOU, BUT I CANNOT TAKE THE SOLE CREDIT FOR CHANGSHA'S CAPTURE.

WELL DONE, GUAN YU.

HMM... I ASSUME HE'S DOING SO BECAUSE OF HIS LOYALTY TO HAN XUAN.

I'VE SENT MANY MESSENGERS SINCE, BUT HE TURNED THEM ALL AWAY BY FEIGNING SICKNESS.

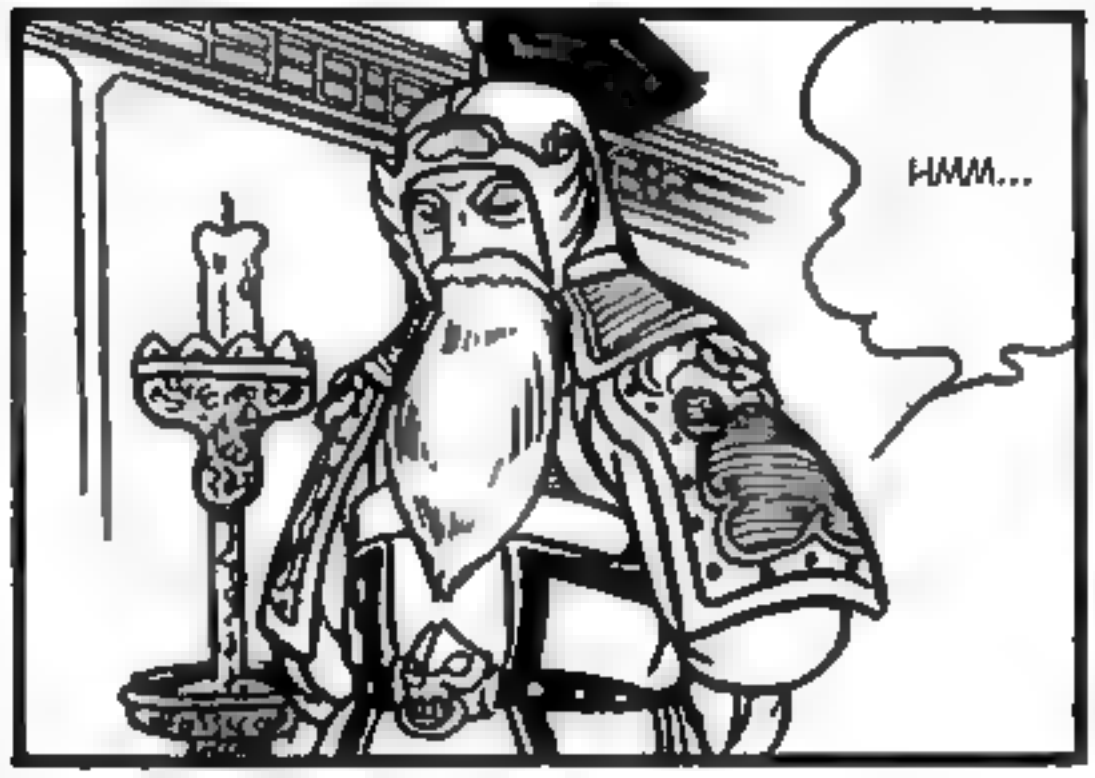
THAT REMINDS ME, HOW IS HUANG ZHONG DOING?



YES, BUT... THIS TIME, LIU BEI HAS COME IN PERSON...

WHAT!?

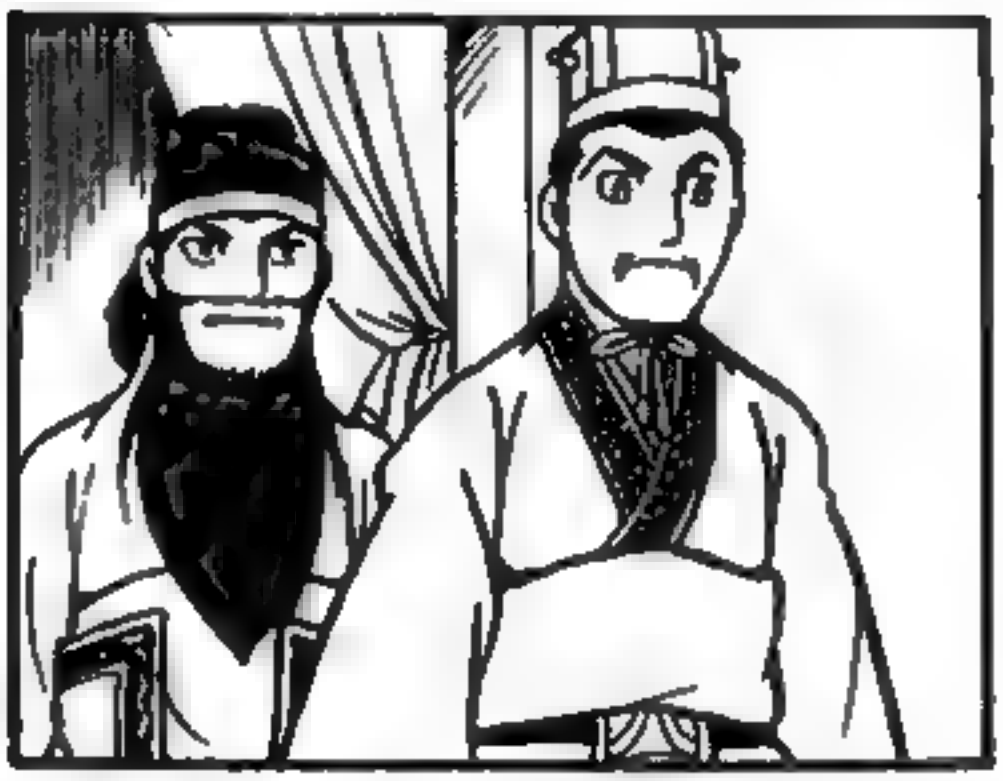
ANOTHER ONE? I'VE ALREADY MADE MY MIND NOT TO MEET WITH THEM.
PARDON ME, SIR, BUT...


HMM...

YES...
LIU BEI?

MY MASTER HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH YOU, SIR.

FINE, LET HIM IN. IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME TO TURN HIM AWAY.



I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU FROM GUAN YU.

AND I AM HUANG ZHONG HANSHENG. IT IS AN HONOUR TO HAVE YOU VISIT MY HUMBLE ABODE.
GOOD DAY, GENERAL. I AM LIU BEI XUANDE.

I...

I'VE COME HERE TODAY NONE OTHER THAN TO ASK IF YOU WOULD LEND ME YOUR AID.

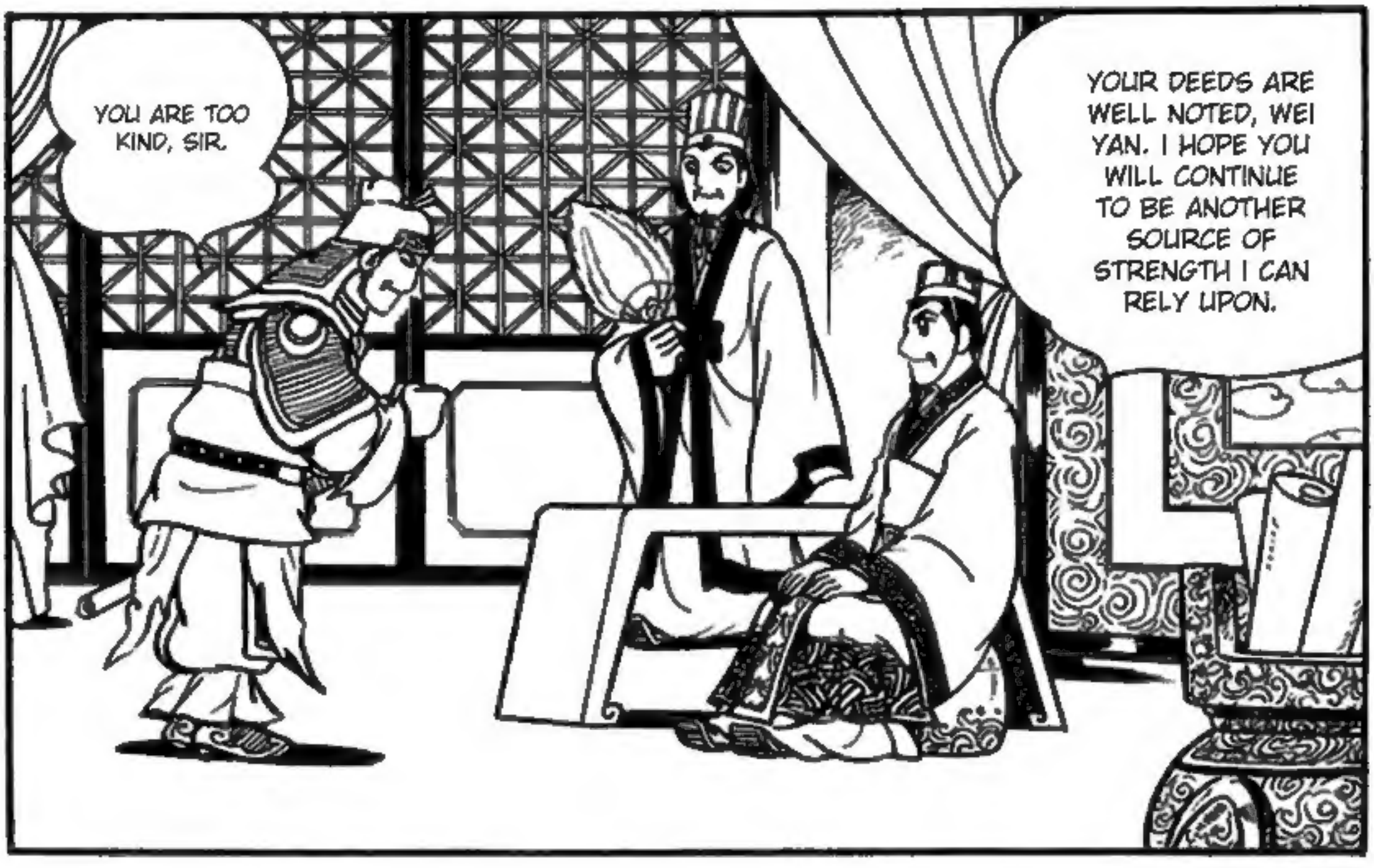
THUS I BOW MY HEAD AND ASK YOU ONCE MORE TO HELP ME...

I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR LINGERING LOYALTY TOWARDS YOUR FORMER LORD. HOWEVER, I PLEAD YOU TO THINK OF THE PEOPLE AS WELL. IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, THEY REQUIRE CAPABLE MEN SUCH AS YOU FOR GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION.

I SHOULD BE RIGHTLY EXECUTED FOR HAVING BEEN YOUR ENEMY.

P-PLEASE STOP, SIR. YOU SHOULD NOT BOW TO AN OLD SOLDIER LIKE ME.

LIU BEI ALSO MET WITH WEI YAN AFTERWARDS.


YOU ARE TOO KIND, SIR.
YOUR DEEDS ARE WELL NOTED, WEI YAN. I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE ANOTHER SOURCE OF STRENGTH I CAN RELY UPON.

WHEN A MAN IS GIVEN A ROOF OVER HIS HEAD AND FOOD ON HIS TABLE BY ANOTHER, HE BECOMES INDEBTED. AS SUCH, WEI YAN, TOO, WAS INDEBTED TO HAN XUAN. AND YET HE HAS KILLED HAN XUAN AND NOW WISHES TO SERVE A NEW MASTER. IN SHORT, HE IS A MAN WHO CHANGES MASTERS ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PERSONAL CONVENIENCE. YOU SHOULD EXECUTE THIS MAN TO DISSUADE YOUR OTHER RETAINERS FROM DOING THE SAME.

MY LORD, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS MAN AS YOUR RETAINER. IF ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD EXECUTE HIM.

WHAT?

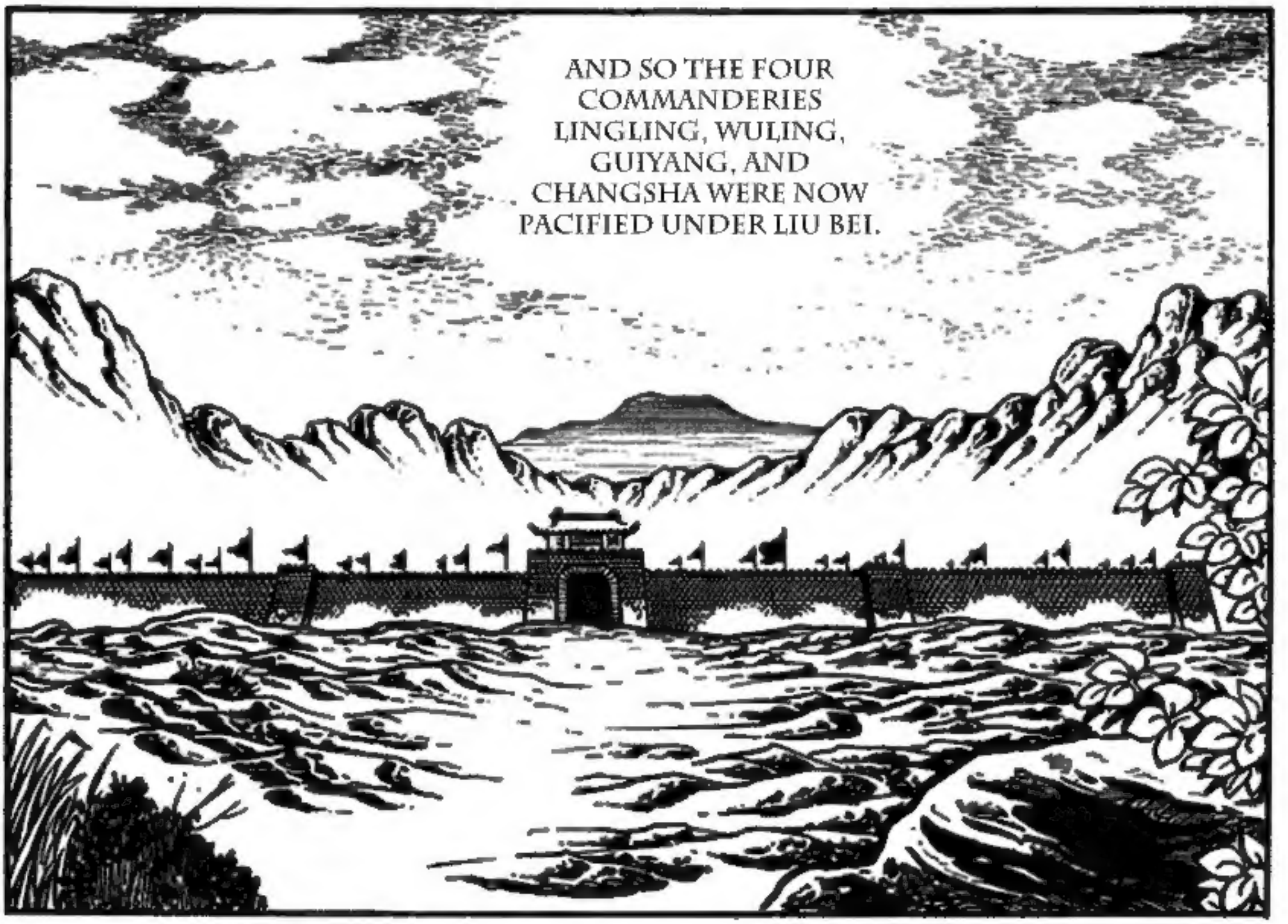
IF I EXECUTE THOSE WHO WILLINGLY COME TO SURRENDER, THEN WHO WOULD EVER WANT TO SURRENDER TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

BUT KONG-MING!

BUT LET ME SAY THIS, WEI YAN.

IF THAT'S HOW MY LORD FEELS, THAN I WILL NOT ARGUE ANY FURTHER...

SWEAR LOYALTY TO OUR LORD AND DO NOT HARBOUR ANY TREACHEROUS THOUGHTS. IF YOU DO, I, ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING, SHALL TAKE YOUR HEAD.



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